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30P

# THE TIMES

No. 64,850

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 12 1994

## Unprecedented move for a member of the Royal Family

# Duchess of Kent joins the Catholics

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Duchess of Kent is to be received into the Roman Catholic church on Friday in an unprecedented move by a member of the Royal Family.

The duchess is the first close member of the family to choose to leave the Church of England, headed by the Queen. But officials emphasised last night that her decision would have no constitutional implications.

St James's Palace, the duchess's official London home, said that the decision was a purely personal one, taken after a long period of consideration. It was not connected with any current moves within the Anglican church, such as the ordination of women.

Heartfelt private reasons are believed to underlie the conversion. The duchess, who has been taking instruction for some time, withdrew from public life for several years after an miscarriage and took a strong stand against abortion. In recent years she has devoted much of her time, often without publicity, to the Samaritans and other charities. She has long exhibited an attraction towards the higher end of the Anglican church, and has made frequent Easter pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk, where a candle is lit for her every evening.

The duchess took her decision after consulting the Queen and informing John Major and the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. No objections were raised as she is not in line to the throne, and the private ceremony to receive her into the Roman Catholic church will take place in the private chapel of Archbishop's House, Westminster.

The Duke of Kent, a cousin of the Queen, retains his Anglican faith and his position as 18th in line to the throne. Two of their children, Lord Nicholas Windsor and Lady Helen Taylor, are also remaining within the Church of England and will keep their place in the succession. Their eldest son, the Earl of St Andrews, married a Canadian Roman Catholic divorcee in 1982, thus surrendering his right to succeed. The Duke's brother, Prince Michael of Kent, also gave up that right when he married Princess Michael, a Roman Catholic.

Both churches reacted to the

■ The Duchess of Kent's conversion to Catholicism exemplifies what the Anglican archbishops call the growing "two-way traffic" between the Churches

duchess's conversion, with careful diplomacy last night. The archbishops of Canterbury and York issued a joint statement describing it as the personal decision of a devout Christian on a spiritual journey. "Such journeys quite commonly lead individuals across the denominational boundaries which unfortunately still separate the Christian family, and the traffic is two-way. Relationships between the Church of England and the Catholic church in this country have, in recent years, become warmer and more co-operative than ever before. The duchess retains to the full her special place in our hearts and prayers."

Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, said: "We must all respect a person's conscience in these matters, and I know that the duchess recognises how much she owes to the Church of England, for which she retains a genuine affection. She has become a close friend of Westminster Cathedral over many years and I know she will be warmly welcomed by the Catholic community."

Church of England bishops, in Manchester for the House of Bishops conference, were told of the duchess's decision yesterday afternoon when the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, halted the meeting to read out the state-

ment he and the Archbishop of York had prepared.

The Rt Rev James Thompson, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, said: "She is an immensely conscientious and good person. This is a very personal decision and it's something we're living through at the moment - with Roman Catholics coming to our church and Church of England people leaving us for theirs. It's a turbulent time in matters of faith. I should think it was a very hard decision for the duchess and she must have thought long and hard about it."

The Rt Rev William Westwood, Bishop of Peterborough, was convinced that the Duchess had not been influenced by the debate over the ordination of women. "I am sure that this is a religious journey, not a controversial one," he said. Dr David Hope, the Bishop of London who is strongly opposed to women priests, agreed. "As I understand it, she has been moving in this direction and making explorations for some time now."

Recent reports that the Prince of Wales has also been taking instruction from the Roman Catholic church with a possible view to changing his faith have been dismissed as "rubbish".

Leading article, page 17



The Duchess of Kent who is to be received into the Roman Catholic church on Friday

## Parents say Countess was trying to save her marriage

By DOMINIC KENNEDY AND ANDREW PIERCE

THE parents of the Countess of Caithness said yesterday that she feared her failed marriage was about to be exposed by the press when she apparently committed suicide.

Major Richard Coke, her father, said the Earl of Caithness had said he "was thinking of leaving her" and the fear of front-page headlines "was playing heavily on my daughter's mind". She had known about her husband's close friendship with Jan Fitzalan Howard since at least last spring, but had forgiven him and tried to save their marriage.

Westminster was awash with rumours that journalists had harassed Lady Caithness before she shot herself in her bedroom at the weekend. However her father, who denied there had been an approach, said she had felt it was inevitable in the current climate. "She feared it would all come out."

Major Coke refused to speculate on whether the threat of exposure had triggered the suicide. "To know the answer to that you must address the question to the Earl," he said.

Government whips were believed to be behind rumours that the press had driven Lady Caithness to suicide in an attempt to deflect attention from the private behaviour of ministers. But even as parliament was buzzing with speculation her elderly parents interrupted their mourning to give their own damaging version of events. They said the Earl of Caithness, who resigned as transport minister, had "behaved extremely badly".

Major Coke, 75, is the

deputy Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk and was awarded the Military Cross during the war. The Countess's mother, Molly, 69, is a novelist who writes under the pseudonym Claire Hunter. Speaking at their home, Wessingham Hall, near King's Lynn yesterday they said their daughter was fighting to save the marriage. The couple had received counselling.

They refuted the claim by Lord Caithness to a local Tory official that he had enjoyed a "lovely family



Molly Coke, daughter confided in her

Christmas. Major Coke said: "We have to say, in fact, my daughter and her two children spent Christmas here, not with Lord Caithness. He was a little surprised, but that's his affair. Ask him. He will tell you why he didn't come here."

Mrs Coke said: "It was a miserable Christmas. My daughter was very upset and naturally worried and talked to us about it. She

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Senior ministers urge Major to rethink back-to-basics policy

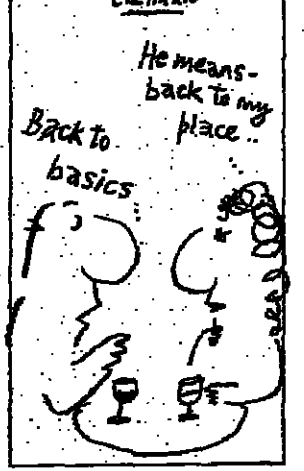
By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JUL SHEARMAN

SENIOR Cabinet ministers are to press John Major to rethink his back-to-basics campaign, it was disclosed last night. An attempt to end the infighting over the policy is likely to be made at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting, but the pressure for a review will be resisted by ministers fearful of accusations of a U-turn and of prolonging the Government's agony.

As the Prime Minister returned from the Nato summit in Brussels, he faced renewed backbench Tory sniping at his leadership, a fierce onslaught in the Commons from John Smith, the Labour leader, and an ICM opinion poll for the *Guardian*, which gave Labour 50 per cent, the Tories 26, and the Liberal Democrats

20, the highest Labour lead for four years.

Cheered on in the Commons by gleeful Labour MPs, Mr Smith accused the Govern-



ment of hypocrisy and claimed Mr Major's main policy theme was in "hopeless confusion and disarray".

At a press conference in Brussels, a battered Mr Major had earlier sought to dispel the air of crisis by insisting that "this particular little flurry of criticism" would subside and that the policy would remain in place.

As MPs returned to the Commons after the Christmas recess, one government whip said: "We will weather the storm." In spite of denials of crisis meeting plans, however, senior party officials indicated that the Prime Minister would be sitting down with Sir Norman Fowler, the Tory Party chairman, and Richard Ryder, the Chief Whip, during the next few days. Frantic efforts were being made to calm a parliamentary party

appalled by recent events and serious tensions remained over Mr Major's leadership and the precise meaning of the policy. The backbench "bastards" who tormented Mr Major over Maastricht were quickly on the offensive, with Edward Leigh, the former trade minister, accusing the Prime Minister of retreating under fire and failing to give the decisive leadership the country needed.

As Mr Major again insisted that back to basics was about a return to traditional standards in the classroom rather than the bedroom, Mr Leigh said the Prime Minister should stick to the tough line taken by right-wingers such as John

Continued on page 2, col 7

Peter Riddell, page 10  
Peter Brookings and David Hart, page 16

## Dublin lifts broadcast ban on IRA

By NICHOLAS WATT IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

UNIONIST and Conservative politicians last night accused Dublin of making concessions to the IRA after the Irish government lifted its long-standing broadcasting ban on Sinn Féin.

In a move widely seen as a gesture to the IRA while it continues to consider the Anglo-Irish Declaration of December 15, the Irish Cabinet agreed to let the ban expire next Wednesday after a year-long review.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, accused Dublin of playing up to the IRA. Michael Mates, the former Northern Ireland security minister, said he was disappointed that the Irish Government had acted unilaterally.

Continued on page 2, col 3

## Burst Thames floods homes

By LIN JENKINS

THE Thames burst its banks yesterday, flooding scores of homes, as heavy rain fell over a saturated South East.

Buildings on the river bank at Hampton Court and on Trowlock and Thames Ditton islands were flooded as rainwater which fell two days ago ran off surrounding farmland into the Thames, and its tributaries. The problem was worsened by high tides sending seawater coursing upstream and stopping the flow of fresh water around Teddington Lock.

The flooding has been caused by water running off land in Gloucestershire, Wil-

shire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Surrey which is saturated from autumn rains and unable to absorb any more.

In Chichester, an experiment to stop pumping more than 200,000 gallons an hour from the river Lavant and into the sea was abandoned when the water level rose quickly. With the flow at four times the normal rate, John Williams, the county emergency planning officer, said it was essential to reduce the pressure on the culvert taking the river under the city.

Four temporary bridges being put up by a team of 100 troops to open routes to the

east were expected to be in place by this morning.

The forecast overnight was for half an inch of rain. The National Rivers Authority said that Chichester could just cope if the fall was no higher. Ground water levels in the surrounding area are 20 metres above normal. At West Dean, a village to the north of the city, the January average of 97mm (3 3/4 in) of rain has already been exceeded with a fall of 140mm (5 1/2 in) in 11 days.

BBC anniversary, page 2  
Photograph and forecast, page 22

## Nadir engages top QCs for legal battle

By A STAFF REPORTER

ASIL Nadir, the fugitive tycoon, has engaged two of England's top legal minds to launch an attack on the British Government and the country's legal system from northern Cyprus.

The former millionaire businessman has enlisted the help of leading barristers Anthony Serivener, QC, and David Pannick, QC, to pursue action against a number of prominent establishment figures, including the Attorney-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Since his escape to Cyprus,

Mr Nadir has waged a constant war of words with the British authorities over the collapse of his multi-million pound Polly Peck empire and has managed on a number of occasions to embarrass government figures.

Last night it was claimed that Mr Nadir's newly formed legal team, who are said to be funded by his close friends, will seek an immediate stay of criminal proceedings and begin counter claims alleging infringement of human rights.

Nadir promise, page 2

## ADVERTISEMENT

## How Times readers can save lives in Bosnia now

REPORT FROM TUZLA

Whoever is guilty of creating the hell that is Bosnia today, Adisa Ekrem and thousands of children like her are the innocent victims. Six-year-old Adisa lives in an overcrowded makeshift refugee shelter near Tuzla. Orphaned after a devastating mortar blast, Adisa herself was discovered fighting for her life by UK aid agency Feed the Children. The shelter was desperately short of food, particularly the food needed by young children.

Feed the Children delivers food, medical and hygiene supplies directly to children in immediate need. They're bringing hope to hell. Their work is fast, efficient, well targeted, and often carried out in very dangerous conditions. They have saved Adisa's life - and the lives of countless more children like her.

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John 10150



## Fugitive tycoon retains leading QCs in battle over Polly Peck investigation

## Nadir promises to nail leading Britons

BY ANGELA MACRAE  
MICHAEL THEODOULOU  
AND CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

TWO prominent QCs, Anthony Scrivener and David Pannick, have been retained by Asil Nadir to mount a determined challenge to the Government and the British legal system. The fugitive tycoon has instructed the leading silks through Peter Krivinskas, a solicitor based in Manchester, who has left the firm of Hagues to focus on the litigation.

Mr Nadir yesterday sat in his island refuge in the two stone lighter since his flight and promised that more than 20 figures in the British establishment would face

legal action, including Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, and Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

"We are confident that what we have is a categorical proof of misbehaviour by numerous people. I am not hopeful, I am certain [of success]," Mr Nadir said.

In the past, his repeated threats to embroil British authorities in a £4.5 billion action over the police investigation that led to the collapse of his Polly Peck empire have been met with scepticism by politicians and the prosecuting authorities. But despite his fugitive status he has managed on a number of occasions to embarrass the British authorities. Mr

Krivinskas, who flew to northern Cyprus a month ago with Mr Scrivener to talk to the fugitive tycoon, said yesterday: "We hope to make an announcement soon concerning the timetable of our actions. However, this depends on obtaining certain documents."

Mr Scrivener and Mr Pannick confirmed last night that they had been retained by Mr Nadir. Mr Scrivener will make an application before Mr Justice Tucker for a stay of proceedings against Mr Nadir, alleging an abuse of process. Mr Nadir was bailed on theft charges of £30 million when he fled Britain for northern Cyprus in May last year.

Mr Krivinskas said Mr Pannick

was advising Mr Nadir on potential litigation involving possible infringement of his human rights.

Another application involving a third QC is likely to be made by creditors to remove the three administrators appointed to Polly Peck International in 1990. David Kidd, solicitor for the administrators, said that most of the warrants had been withdrawn after statements were made to the prosecuting authority.

Mr Nadir said he would certainly pursue separate cases against PPI's administrators and "all their agents in Turkey and everywhere else".

"They've disposed assets of Polly Peck at anything from 10 per cent to 25 per cent of their actual value ...

Surely that couldn't have been the instructions of the court."

Mr Nadir said it would take too long to list his contested assets in northern Cyprus and Turkey, but confirmed he had no shortage of money for litigation, thanks to his "supporters and friends". His companies were "the biggest employer" in northern Cyprus, keeping 5,000 in work, a figure he said would more than double by the end of the year.

Apart from chain-smoking, Mr Nadir showed little sign of tension. "Other than God, I don't fear anything in life," Mr Nadir said, denying he was paranoid about his safety. "I feel very comfortable and I feel very secure."



Forecasters past and present George Cowling, Helen Young and Michael Fish

## Passion weathers 40 years

BY A STAFF REPORTER

WHILE breakfast television presenters are required to have the F for fanciability factor, weather forecasters must have the I factor, according to the senior presenter Bill Giles. They also have to have a passion for the job which verges on the sexual.

"You have got to touch the charts, stroke them and run your hands up them. It's sensual," he said. John Kettley

agreed: "It's all about caressing your chart."

Michael Fish said: "We are working six days a week at the moment, so this is probably our only chance for passion."

The passionate weather men and women last night celebrated 40 years of television forecasts with the screening on BBC1 of the programme "Sunny Spells", which recalled some of the

faces that have predicted gales, rain, snowstorms and occasional sunshine.

Mr Giles said: "The I factor is personality plus enthusiasm. They don't have to be the best meteorologists in the world as long as they can tell the story and make it interesting."

Sometimes forecasters had too much personality. Ian McCaskill and Michael Fish had to be restrained. "I reined them back in. I have control over what outside guest appearances they do and I cut down on them."

The first BBC television weatherman, George Cowling, 72, was puzzled at the thought of an I factor or passion. Mr Cowling, who forecast rain in the first weather report on January 11, 1954, said: "We were all good civil servants in those days."

In those days, weathermen needed a creative bent as they used to draw symbols on charts with wax crayons.

Nowadays, the BBC uses computer graphics and has a weather centre in London which operates round the clock. It produces 43 broadcasts for TV and radio each day and 58 at the weekend — with passion.



George Cowling, with wax crayon, in January 1954



Media, page 20

Ian McCaskill puts the photographers in the frame at the birthday celebrations

## Dublin accused of trying to woo IRA

Continued from page 1

While a similar ban was still imposed in the United Kingdom, an Irish government spokesman said the ban, known as Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, could be reactivated at any time. The act still prevented interviews with people who incited hatred or violence. He said: "This is not part of any plan to woo Sinn Féin to the peace process."

However, Michael D. Higgins, the Irish culture minister who has been pushing for the ban to be lifted, suggested yesterday that the lifting of the ban was linked to the peace process.

He told BBC radio: "I know that there are many people who have been caught in the constituency of violence who now must begin to realise that they will never have a better opportunity of entering the mainstream of political dialogue and politics."

The lifting of the ban was welcomed by Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Féin. He said: "Over 20 years of political censorship has served to

stunt any hopes of a resolution of the conflict."

Mr Mates said that the move would be seen as a concession to Sinn Féin and the IRA. "After this the IRA will ask for something from the British Government, and so it goes on."

Unionist fears that Albert Reynolds, the Taoiseach, is aiming his peace strategy at Republicans were fuelled when John Bruton, leader of the opposition Fine Gael, asked whether the move was part of a hidden agenda: "The new guidelines ... appear to mean that IRA spokespeople will not be asked to explain or justify murders because their answers might breach the new rules. But they will be allowed to take easy questions about their ... political work. This will give them the best of all worlds."

The British ban has been criticised as a halfway house which should be withdrawn or tightened. Peter Brooke, the National Heritage Secretary, is conducting a review which will be concluded within the next few weeks.

## CORRECTION

In a *Times Magazine* article, "Footnotes from God", on Graham Greene (January 1), we quoted a letter from Graham Greene to his old friend Michael Meyer in which he accused Mr Meyer of printing some of his letters "without permission".

It is now clear that Graham Greene had forgotten telling Mr Meyer, earlier, that he could quote from his letters and, indeed, that he had given his approval to everything relating to him that Mr Meyer intended to print. In a subsequent manuscript letter (of which there is no copy in the

archive but which Mr Meyer has now shown to us) Graham Greene offered Mr Meyer his deepest apologies for the accusation.

We have also been asked to make it clear that we never meant to suggest that in planning a book of essays on Graham Greene, Mr Meyer had put forward the names of "many" of Mr Greene's "old enemies". Most of the names to which Mr Greene took exception were names put forward by the publishers. We apologise to Mr Meyer for any embarrassment or distress caused by the article.

## Countess feared press intrusion

Continued from page 1

she would do anything to save her marriage. She was very loyal. She was the ideal wife that the Conservative party believe in. She only cared for a true family life." Mrs Coke last spoke to her daughter on Friday afternoon when "she had no intention of killing herself".

Major Coke said the reason for his daughter's unhappiness "was this other woman. I was horrified." Mrs Coke said: "She discussed the whole thing with her husband many times and it evidently didn't work out. I hesitate to blame anybody when there is a death. There is no doubt the cause of the breakdown in the marriage was because of this other woman."

"She was the absolute opposite to being depressive," said her mother. Both parents rejected the notion that financial worries may have driven her to suicide. "Anybody trying to educate two children is under strain," said the major. "Somebody has said she would live in a shack to support the whole family and marriage. She would have done. It's absolutely true."

Mrs Coke described her daughter as a "deeply loving and supportive wife. She had perfect grounds for divorce if she had wanted to leave." She added that her daughter "was ill because of it".

"Diana was our beloved daughter. Our primary concern now is how this has affected our two grandchildren, Iona, 15 and Berrie (Alexander, Lord Berriedale)." Lady Calhoun had never met Mrs Fitzalan Howard. The Major declined to say whether he had confronted his son-in-law. However, the two men had spoken by telephone since her death. Major Coke said that Lord Calhoun had

made no mention of any press harassment. Major Coke added: "It would be very interesting if Lord Calhoun made a statement."

At least two newspapers, *The Sun* and *The Mail on Sunday*, have been accused of sending reporters to the Calhoun family home in Chipping Norton shortly before the tragedy. But even some of the Tory party's own supporters were last night suggesting that the theory was nothing other than "cheap black propaganda" which had been churned out by the Whips.

Jonathan Holbrow, editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, denied the charge furiously: "We knew nothing about it. We made absolutely no enquiries. But I am deeply concerned that such rumours should emanate from senior political sources." Kelvin MacKenzie, editor of *The Sun*, is known to have obtained an assurance from the Chief Whip, Richard Ryder, that his office had not retailed the rumours. Mr Ryder has privately absolved the press. All of which suggests that the relationship between newspapers and government is now at its lowest ebb.

Lords shuffle, page 10



Earl of Calhoun: he "behaved badly"

## Ministers to urge rethink on 'basics'

Continued from page 1

Redwood and Peter Lilley and risk unpopularity with some people to inspire confidence among its supporters.

Senior ministers of the liberal wing of the party disclosed that they wanted to rid the "back-to-basics" approach of any connotations of preaching or moralising.

Ministers should not be pronouncing on whether children needed fathers, but saying that the taxpayer should not support single mothers where absent fathers could afford maintenance. This message seemed at odds with comments by John Patten, the Education Secretary, that children brought up without fathers "suffered terribly".

While Mr Major sought to dismiss the soul-searching at Westminster about personal ethics as "people dancing on the head of a pin," Sir Norman found himself pronouncing on adultery — he was opposed to it but it was not necessarily a resigning matter.

Mr Major insisted he was against a "witch-hunt" of errant MPs. "Of course, we want good standards and good values. But it is not our job as politicians to preach about that."

"We will pursue this programme because it is right. We will pursue it because it is necessary. The back-to-basics programme didn't suddenly appear. It resulted from a whole series of meetings I've had around the country over the past two or three years. It is a very wide tapestry ... back to basics fits an instinct that the British people care about."

## How to collect Social Security at any age

Every year, thousands of millions of pounds go on offer from the Government on offer. In some schemes, the take up rate is only a third of those eligible — just because most people don't even know the Government owes them that money.

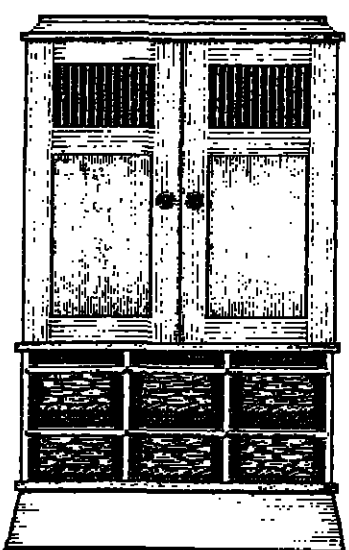
A new book tells how every UK citizen can collect their share of the £68 thousand million that will be handed out this year by the Government. The book explains how to collect social security before retirement, small business loans, income supplements, education benefits, farm loans and unemployment job training. Here are just a few facts concerning:

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- How 12,185,000 children get regular benefit payments.
- How to qualify for disability pensions (more than 970,000 collecting benefits every month).
- How to know when to quit work and start collecting monthly retirement benefits.
- How you may be cheating yourself out of cash benefits rightfully due to you.
- How to collect unemployment benefits even if you quit your job or were fired.
- How to get free legal assistance.
- How to get well-paid Government jobs.
- How to get free cash to start your own business. (It's simple and the book tells you exactly how to do it.)
- How to get the Government to guarantee your business start-up loan.
- How to collect a £30,000 grant for home improvements.
- How to collect £3,600 or much more a year to attend college.
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Peter Riddell, page 10  
Peter Brookings and David Hart, page 16

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## 'Impetuous and utterly mistaken' PC accused couple of gross indecency

EastEnders actress  
sues over report  
of 'sex romp' in car

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

GILLIAN Taylforth, of the television soap *EastEnders*, launched a High Court libel action yesterday over a newspaper article that reported a police allegation that she indulged in a sexual act on a slip road of the A1.

Miss Taylforth — the bistro owner Kathy Beale in the BBC series — and Geoffrey Knights, her fiancé, claim they stopped when he felt sick from pancreatitis. A policeman stopped behind their car and accused them of outraging public decency with an intimate sexual act.

Three days later the story was reported in *The Sun* and yesterday the couple began an action for damages against News Group Newspapers, publisher of *The Sun*, for "serious, scurrilous and unwarranted attacks against their characters and reputations".

A jury at the High Court in London was told that the actress had pulled on to the hard shoulder of the A1 after Mr Knights complained of feeling sick on their way home from Ascot. Mr Knights undid his belt and trouser zip to relieve pressure on his stomach caused by an attack of pancreatitis.

Miss Taylforth, 37, learnt across and placed her hand on his stomach, the jury heard, but concern was replaced by anger when a policeman knocked on the window of their car and accused them of outraging public decency.

They were further angered when, three days later, the culmination of their day out was reported in *The Sun* under the headline "TV Kathy's sex romp fury".

News Group Newspapers denies libel, claiming the story was true, but says that if it was untrue the newspaper got the information from the Metropolitan Police, who would be responsible.

Michael Beloff QC, for Miss Taylforth and Mr Knights, said the police officer was mistaken and that as a result of the front-page story Miss

Taylforth was forced to endure the "smirking of others".

He said: "I hope I am not being indelicate when I say that you won't want any expert to tell you that when you are feeling sick you don't want sex. It isn't that you have had too much to drink and you are developing brewers droop."

"Shakespeare put it rather better in *Macbeth*, saying that drink 'provokes the desire but it takes away the performance'. It's not even that the man's mind is willing but the flesh is weak — it's more basic than that. You simply cannot get an erection when you are about to throw up."

Miss Taylforth is expected

**'I am a well-known actress. If I wanted to do this sort of thing do they really think I would choose the A1?'**

to give evidence today in the action, which the court was told could last for up to two weeks.

Mr Beloff said Miss Taylforth and Mr Knights, 33, a businessman, went to Royal Ascot on June 17, 1992, leaving Jessica, their five-month-old baby, with Miss Taylforth's mother.

On the way from their flat in north London they met up with friends Barry and Lindsay Stewart, and had a pub lunch before arriving at Ascot.

During the afternoon they drank bottles of champagne and spent more time in the bar than watching the races. The day went badly and Mr Knights ended up drunkenly slumped under a tree amid friction between the couple. He was jealous that his fiancée

had bumped into an old boy friend and he was suffering from an inflammation of the pancreas.

After stopping at a restaurant on the way home, Mr Stewart dropped the couple off at their car, which had been parked at a service station, and Miss Taylforth took the wheel.

Shortly after that Mr Knights told her to stop because he wanted to be sick, and then PC Terrence Talbot stopped behind and said: "I saw what you were doing — I will have you for gross indecency."

Mr Beloff said: "It was that impetuous, ill-considered judgment that brings us here today. PC Talbot was utterly mistaken. He put two and two together and regrettably made five."

He said Mr Knights was sick and then lost his temper, swearing at the officer who had by then "painted himself into a corner".

PC Talbot allegedly over-reacted and radioed for assistance from other police cars. Mr Knights was taken to Borehamwood police station, Hertfordshire, and Miss Taylforth was allowed to return home.

Mr Beloff said that at the police station Mr Knights was accused of taking part in an indecent act and PC Talbot claimed he had seen him with an erection as he "embroidered" his allegation. Mr Knights was eventually released with a caution but said he had no recollection of signing it.

The jury heard a tape recording of a conversation between Miss Taylforth and Stuart Higgins, then deputy editor of *The Sun*, in which she hotly disputed the police allegation.

She told him: "The whole thing is totally ridiculous. I am a well-known actress. If I wanted to do this sort of thing do they really think I would choose the A1 — it's bloody disgusting."

The hearing continues.



The actress Gillian Taylforth arriving at the High Court in London yesterday

Abduction  
father faces  
extradition  
from US

BY IAN MURRAY

AN EXTRADITION warrant has been issued for a father who took his two children to Miami on Sunday after telling their mother that they were going to the Boat Show in London. Sussex police confirmed last night that they had asked United States authorities to arrest Shaun Reeve, 28, for abducting Daniel, 4, and Kirstie, 2, from their home at Rustington, West Sussex.

Their mother, Allison Thomas, 28, who had lived with Mr Reeve for seven years before they separated in 1992, said last night that he had telephoned to say he intended to keep the children in Miami. "Shaun says I can join them, but I don't want to live in America," she said. "I'm so worried not knowing where they are. When I spoke to them on the phone they seemed quite happy, but they don't realise what is going on."

Mr Reeve left Britain to work in Florida with his father in 1992. There were no formal arrangements for him to have access to the children. He returned to Britain to spend last Christmas with them.

On Sunday he said he was taking them to London, but instead went to Gatwick and caught a flight to Miami. Det Insp John Ryder, of Sussex police, said last night: "We are treating this as child abduction and are applying for extradition."

In South Wales, police are negotiating with the father who took his two boys to Spain at the weekend instead of returning them to their mother in Cardiff. Ian Sharp, 41, said he had been offered an amnesty if he returned to Britain immediately with Andrew, 8, and Sam, 6. Last night a High Court judge made them wards of court and ordered their immediate return.

"I am prepared to go to jail in my fight to get custody," Mr Sharp said. "I intend to return, but the boys are happier with me."

Nicola Saunders, 32, said she was relieved to know where the boys were, but was worried that her former husband might not return.

Mr Sharp was given access to the children at weekends and one night a week after the couple split in 1992.

Frightened  
witness  
committed  
suicide

BY RONALD FAUX

A COURT witness who feared for his life when he was withdrawn from a police protection scheme hanged himself near his mother's grave.

Walter Goodman, 39, had been repeatedly bludgeoned about the head with bar stools in an attack by a gang of men. He was moved to a secret address 30 miles from his home in Manchester pending the trial of David Ward, one of his attackers.

Ward, a former boxer, was convicted and jailed for 12 years. But four months before the trial, police removed Mr Goodman from their protection scheme because they felt he was not complying with the rules, an inquest was told yesterday. His family claimed he became so frightened that he barricaded himself in the loft of his home. They had him admitted to Withington hospital for psychiatric treatment.

Dr Amanda Hamilton, senior registrar, told the inquest in Manchester that Mr Goodman had left the hospital after two days of treatment and was reported missing. His body was later found hanged near the grave of his mother.

Leonard Gorodkin, the coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide. He said that Mr Goodman was disturbed for a number of reasons, many of them apparently stemming from the assault some months before.

After the hearing Mr Goodman's sister, Pauline Clements, said that her brother had feared for his life. "He was terrified that someone was out to get him."

She said that he became a changed man after the attack on him. "He became introverted and feared people were watching him and that some were even trying to poison him. He never used to be frightened of anything until this attack. I believe he was driven to what he did by the worry of being left out in the cold."

Greater Manchester police say that the protection scheme has achieved a 90 per cent success rate in persuading frightened witnesses to give evidence. The programme was set up after the collapse of several murder trials in the city.

## 'Live' scaffolding kills woman and dogs

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN and her three dogs were electrocuted yesterday when they touched scaffolding which had come in contact with a live power source.

Janice Clelland, 32, who was shopping with the dogs in Glasgow's West End district, was taken to Western Infirmary, where she died shortly after admission. The dogs, two German Shepherds and a mongrel, were killed instantly by the high-voltage shock. The

cause of the accident was not immediately known.

Police believe that Miss Clelland, a nursing home worker who lived in a tenement flat near by, tied the dogs to the scaffolding outside a bakery shop. One theory is that external cabling touched the scaffolding when the dogs started fighting, and that when their owner tried to release them they were all electrocuted.

A shop assistant, Annette

McDonagh, 30, ran out to try to help and was electrocuted when she touched a metal lead belonging to one of the dogs. She is understood to have been saved from serious injury because she was wearing rubber-soled training shoes.

The scaffolding was erected on Monday to repair guttering on the 70 ft tenement building. Workmen left the site when it began to rain shortly before the accident. Emergency services at the scene cordoned off

the scaffolding and closed two shops. Representatives of Scottish Power, Strathclyde Regional Council and the local health and safety executive were trying to isolate the source of the power and cut it off. The scaffolding was believed to be live even after the power source to the building had been cut off.

Last night Scottish Power and health and safety investigators opened an enquiry into the accident.

Car fire girl wins  
substantial award

BY FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL aged seven, who sued her parents over serious burns she suffered as a baby in a car fire in which her sister died, was awarded a six-figure sum in damages yesterday.

The exact amount of compensation paid to Melanie Grimsley is being kept confidential as a condition of the settlement agreed between lawyers.

Her father William said outside the High Court in Belfast: "No amount of money will compensate for what Melanie suffered. How do you compensate for Amanda, my other daughter, who died in the fire?"

Settlement of the action, in which Melanie, of Kesh, Co Fermanagh, sued her parents and two garages, came almost six years after the family's Maestro burst into flames. The claim was brought to enable the family to obtain damages from their motor insurers.

Donal Fee, Melanie's solicitor, said the substantial settlement was sufficient to make provision for her in the event of any new medical treatment becoming available.

The figure was approved by Mr Justice Carswell sitting in chambers. It was announced in court that the case had been settled on terms which were not being disclosed.

Mervyn Morrow QC, for Melanie, said during the case that her mother, Pamela, had left her and her sister Aman-

da, two, in the car in April 1988 while she popped into a supermarket to buy milk.

She came out to find Melanie's hair and clothing on fire. A man pulled the child from the car but she was badly burned. Amanda's body was recovered by firemen.

Mr Morrow said the fingers were burnt off Melanie's left hand and doctors operated on her right hand to provide a reduced grip between her thumb and a finger. She had many operations on her face but she is still badly scarred and has no hair, eyebrows or eyelashes.

Mr Morrow said the fire was started by a courtesy light fault caused by a loose connection. Liability was denied by the insurance companies representing the girl's parents and the garages which sold and serviced the car.

The parents of a girl born with severe brain damage, which they claim was caused by a minor car accident, have settled out of court for a six-figure sum with the driver of the other vehicle (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Mohsen and Jacqueline Habibi, from Glasgow, had been claiming £1 million in damages on behalf of their daughter Jasmin, who is now seven. Mrs Habibi was five months pregnant with Jasmin at the time of the accident in August 1986. She was allowed home after a hospital check-up.

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# 'Dangerous' diet doctor fell foul of 21-stone detective

By LIN JENKINS

A DOCTOR who ran a specialist slimming clinic turned his patients into drug addicts by negligently prescribing dieting tablets, a disciplinary hearing of the General Medical Council was told.

Dr Nigel Gray gave women dangerously high doses, allowed his receptionist to give out drugs while he was away, and failed to warn a woman about the potential side-effects on her unborn baby, the hearing was told.

Rosalind Foster, counsel to the council's professional conduct committee, said Dr Gray, who ran the Marlowe Health and Diet Centre at Plymouth, Devon, was motivated by money. "We say that the doctor was more concerned with his pockets and the commercial side rather than the welfare of his patients."

"He was guilty of the irresponsible prescription of these drugs. Prolonged use of these drugs can cause hallucinations and excessive use can cause psychosis," she said.

Dr Gray, 46, of Truro, Cornwall, denies professional misconduct by irresponsibly issuing or sanctioning the use of appetite-suppressant drugs between 1990 and 1993.

The hearing was told that Dr Gray, when approached by a television producer intent on unmasking his activities, said: "I'm not worried, my phone will just start ringing. That will be good for business." The producer then hired a 21-stone detective.

Miss Foster said patients suffered side-effects such as hyperactivity and sleeplessness, and one underwent a complete personality change from being addicted to the drugs. The drugs prescribed included Duronim, Apisate and Tenate Dospan.

Dr Gray supplied Pat Pervin, of Thornbury, Plym-

outh, with appetite-suppressant drugs for 14 weeks in 1990. "They left her feeling either high or very depressed and eventually her husband told her to stop taking the tablets," Miss Foster said. "Eventually, however, she again fell prey to the lure of the slimming drugs and disguised her payments from her husband by either paying in cash, telling her husband she had spent the money on a car-gan, for example, or getting her young daughter to pick up the drugs."

Allyson Griffiths, a television producer of Plymouth, became suspicious when she checked and found the possible side-effects of the drugs included hypertension, hallucinations and toxic psychosis.

Miss Griffiths had been offered drugs at a "special Christmas price" of £25 by Dr Gray's receptionist when he was away on holiday and had decided to investigate.

She was given a supply of slimming tablets but became concerned because she suffered from high blood pressure and was worried the drugs might have an adverse

effect. After studying medical texts and enlisting the help of two overweight friends, she made a television programme about the clinic.

John Rigby, a 21-stone private detective, went to see Dr Gray to investigate on behalf of Miss Griffiths. Mr Rigby told the committee: "He didn't seem concerned about my weight. In the past other doctors had looked at me in horror and fright. I told him I wanted to lose a considerable amount of weight and he said 'I'd come to the right place.'"

"He put me on a diet plan and said I could eat as much as I liked as often as I liked as long as I ate things separately. I thought it was strange, he weighed me when I was fully clothed." Mr Rigby was offered a week's supply of slimming tablets for £10 or a month's supply for £25.

The committee was told how the tablets were not labelled, the dosage not specified and patients given no guidance about how to take them.

Cross-examined by Alan Jenkins, counsel for Dr Gray, Miss Griffiths admitted she had told a lie about adverse effects from the drugs and that she had taken only one of the tablets. She insisted her programme for Campaign Television Productions had been "absolutely accurate".

Miss Foster said Dr Gray told one woman that many other women had taken the slimming drugs she was being given without side-effects. But after Deborah Holloway became pregnant, Dr Jane Beasley, her GP, found that the drugs could cause possible abnormalities in an unborn child. The doctor ordered her to hospital for a scan. Happily, said Miss Foster, Mrs Holloway gave birth to a healthy daughter.

The hearing continues.



Gray: professional misconduct denied



Roger Ede, the man who put Susan Carter behind bars, claims the Home Secretary is out of touch with what is happening in the courts

## Jailer of Ambridge One blames Howard

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE lawyer responsible for the jailing of Ambridge's Susan Carter has attacked Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, for being out of touch with what is happening in the courts.

Roger Ede, secretary of the Law Society's criminal law committee, has been advising the writers of BBC Radio 4's *The Archers*. He also accused Mr Howard of politically orchestrating the atmosphere which resulted in the unfortunate Susan Carter, mother of two and formerly of good character, being sent to prison. The

Ambridge One, as the fictional character in the long-running radio soap has become known, was jailed two days before Christmas for conspiring to pervert the course of justice, and is in danger of being elevated to the status of a political prisoner.

The character, played by Charlotte Martin, was sentenced for helping her brother escape arrest after an alleged armed robbery. Her plight has sparked an angry campaign among dedicated listeners.

Mr Howard became embroiled when he said at the weekend that no trial judge

would send a woman like Mrs Carter to jail just before Christmas.

Such comments, says Mr Ede, show that the Home Secretary is out of touch with what is going on in his own courts. "Having spent 13 years doing criminal defence work in London, I can think of clients of mine with young children who have been sent to prison just before Christmas for shoplifting."

Approached by the script-writers, who had a community service order in mind, Mr Ede pointed out that a custodial sentence, although unduly severe, was entirely possible in real life. Mr Ede

blames the Home Secretary for Mrs Carter's incarceration. "Without Michael Howard's speech to the Tory conference in October promising to send more people to prison, the judge would have been more lenient. The trial judge would argue it was a deterrent sentence: he exactly caught the mood of the moment."

The true concern of Mr Ede and the Law Society is what they see as an indiscriminate use of prison by judges. "Susan will not have suffered in vain if the furor provokes a wider debate into the wisdom of locking up so many people," Mr Ede said.



Susan Carter as played by Charlotte Martin

## Gloucester to review 'safari trip' policy

By A STAFF REPORTER

A COUNCIL that sent a teenage offender on an 80-day African safari yesterday banned such trips while it reviews its policy.

Gloucester County Council warned the Bryn Melyn children's home in North Wales, which organised the venture, to take more account of public opinion.

During a statement made to the council's social services committee, Derek Mead, director of social services, told the organisers at Bryn Melyn: "Be sensitive to public opinion — it is, after all, public money."

His comments came after an outcry over disclosures that a 17-year-old boy from Gloucester who was facing burglary and car-related charges was sent on a £7,000 journey to see the Nile, the pyramids and Victoria Falls.

Three days after he had returned to Britain he was arrested on suspicion of drink-driving and possessing drugs and a knife.

Mr Mead told the committee that Gloucester had never agreed to holidays abroad for young offenders.

"What we have been prepared to agree to are alternative approaches which sometimes use character-building trips abroad as part of a structured regime which addresses offending behaviour," he said.

Mr Mead said that the council would be holding a seminar to review policy on delinquents in the second week of February and which would be addressed by experts on youth crime and by local magistrates. Until then, all further trips would be cancelled.

John Standing, the Conservative spokesman on social services, agreed with Mr Mead that alternative approaches to custody for young offenders must not be threatened by the bad publicity given to one case.

"The public must not be left in any doubt about the true cost of locking juvenile offenders away," Mr Standing told the committee.

"It is totally wrong for people to depict Bryn Melyn as simply an expensive social experiment — the costs of typical secure units are even more expensive and, what is to me the most important factor of all, cannot show the rate of rehabilitation claimed for Bryn Melyn."

## IRA injures two soldiers with 'Trojan horse bomb'

By NICHOLAS WATT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A DANGEROUS new sophistication in the IRA's firepower emerged yesterday when security experts admitted that the Army had been fooled by the secret of a bomb in a security base in Crossmaglen, Co Armagh. Two soldiers were seriously injured in the subsequent explosion.

The bomb exploded just after midnight yesterday in a van in the compounds of a joint RUC and army base, seven hours after the vehicle had been used to launch a mortar attack. Soldiers had taken the booby-trapped van to the base after an initial examination at the scene of the mortar attack.

One security source said the explosion in the base was believed to be the first successful "Trojan horse" bomb. He said: "I don't think a bomb has gone off like this before in a camp. It was a highly sophisticated secondary device."

Colonel Mike Dewar, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said the mortar attack was a feint and the explosion in the base had been aimed at causing maximum injury.

"The mortar attack was

Yesterday's bomb attack in Armagh has been condemned as an attempt to blow peace off the political agenda

merely a come-on," he said. "It does appear that the IRA managed to bamboozle the bomb disposal experts by secreting the bomb, presumably somewhere within the body of the car, and then subsequently detonating it."

He said the Army's procedures for initially checking the van had been inadequate. "The explosion must have been radio controlled and possibly overlooked from outside the base to make sure there were people around it," Colonel Dewar said. "Then a button was pressed. It is very worrying."

Bomb disposal difficulties were compounded because experts would have wanted to move the van to the base as quickly as possible. Colonel Dewar said: "They will have been faced with the problem in Crossmaglen of not hanging around outside a secure area for too long." He said: "They will have been keen, once they had cleared the van, to remove it to a safer area."

The two injured soldiers,

who suffered multiple shrapnel wounds, were being treated in hospital. One was described as stable and the other as comfortable.

Searnaid Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP and MP for Newry and Armagh, condemned the attack as an attempt to blow peace off the political agenda. He said: "The attack was a particularly devious operation designed to kill and maim at all costs."

Some of the IRA's most hardline activists operate in Crossmaglen, a village less than four miles from the border. Less than two weeks ago a sniper murdered a British soldier on foot patrol there.

Since the IRA murdered nine Protestants in a bomb attack on a fish shop in Shankill Road, Belfast, last October, the provisionals have turned their campaign against the security forces. In December they murdered two policemen in Co Tyrone and there have been numerous attacks on army and police patrols.

## Radio signals end to checkout blues

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE long queue with a trolley at the supermarket checkout could become a distant memory thanks to a device that can total the price of your shopping in an instant.

Supertag can read a trolley's contents in seconds as it rattles past the checkout counter. The system, which links an electronic chip printed on a packet or wrapper with a radio scanner, could also be a boon around the home. Instead of groping hopefully for that elusive tin of salmon, the system can tell you instantly where it is on the shelf.

Mike Marsh, programme manager at the research and development organisation CSIR, based in Pretoria, South Africa, said yesterday: "It is great for books too. You can ask it if there is a certain novel on the bookcase and it will tell you."

Supertag, which is being backed by the London-based British Technology Group, has been developed by CSIR researchers as a replacement for bar codes. At the heart of the system is a wafer-thin circuit board and flat aerial which beams out a coded radio message according to

the product. Tests carried out in co-operation with Pick 'n' Pay, one of South Africa's leading grocery chains, indicate that the tag system can read 50 items a second at a range of four metres.

Mr Marsh said: "The tags are passive until they get near the reader. It energises them and they start shouting back their numbers. Most messages, such as the one from the cornflake packet, do not get through because they clash with, say, the peanut butter broadcasting at the same time. So each tag broadcasts 25 times a second."

Vital to the commercial success of the system is persuading a maker of semiconductor chips to produce the tags in large enough numbers. At the moment each tag costs a few pence. However, the developers believe the system could save chains and suppliers significant sums.

Mr Marsh said: "They have never liked bar codes. They are too small and difficult to read on goods on the top shelf... our system will allow you to open the back of a truck and read its contents without unpacking it," he said.

## Best and worst of modern art bites the dust

By ALISON ROBERTS  
ARTS REPORTER

SO FAREWELL, House Rachel Whiteread's ghost-like sculpture of a terraced house in the East End of London finally bit the dust yesterday, leaving a pile of rubble where a symbol of the controversy surrounding modern art once stood.

On the stroke of 10am, a bulldozer clawed at the prize-winning sculpture — created by spraying concrete on the inside walls of an existing house and then knocking down the outside brickwork — at the junction of Grove Road and Roman Road in E3.

The ensuing silence was quickly broken by Sidney Gale, the 71-year-old ex-docker who until July last year lived in the house that Ms Whiteread dismantled. Watching his home of 50 years being turned inside out had been an upsetting experience, he said.

"I thought they were going to build a model of my house, not do this to it. All you can



Rachel Whiteread watches as her house is demolished: "It was just a statement"

see is the lovely woodwork and mouldings the other way round."

"I had a lovely front room. I spent my life in it."

Did Mr Gale, who now lives round the corner in a



new "plastic" house, think it was art?

"No, not really. I used to do the same sort of thing at the seaside with a bucket and spade," he said.

The sculpture had grown

on Chris Oats, the site manager for the demolition firm. He carried out his task with a cheerful smile. Underneath, however, he was torn in two.

"When I first saw it I wondered what all the fuss

was about. But being around it for a couple of days, I started to like it. It's very ingenious."

The fuss — worldwide media attention, 100,000 visitors and an early-day motion signed by 60 MPs demanding that the sculpture's life be extended — has done Ms Whiteread's career no harm.

She skipped around her work yesterday, taking photographs as the top floor wobbled. "I think it has made people aware of what power a piece of modern art can have," she said.

House helped the artist to win both the £20,000 Turner Prize for the best contemporary art and the £40,000 K Foundation prize for the worst, an unprecedented double which provoked hilarity and scorn in equal measure.

Ms Whiteread was philosophical yesterday. "Of course I am sad about this, but I do not have any feelings about whether it won an award for being good or bad. It was just a statement," she said.

## Police look for links in baby kidnap cases

By PAUL WILKINSON

LINKS between the attempted kidnap of a baby boy this week and six similar bids last year are being sought by detectives from a specialist child abduction unit.

The team was set up in November after incidents in the Leeds-Bradford area of West Yorkshire.

In the latest case, in Bradford on Monday, a woman posing as a health worker tried to abduct one-year-old Martin Scott after telling his mother, Carol Scott, that she was checking reports

of mistreatment. Mrs Scott, 28, became suspicious when the caller refused to let her examine the authentic-looking identity card she had produced to get into the house. The card bore a photograph and the letters NHS.

The bogus official was driven off by a man in a car waiting outside. She is described as white, in her 30s, 5ft 6in tall, with short black permed hair and gold-rimmed glasses. She was wearing a black duffel coat, brown trousers and black shoes.

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# Eurotunnel declares war on ferry fleet

Le Shuttle tickets go on sale today from £220 a carload. Eurotunnel predicts a rush but ferries claim they will win on service

By TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A CROSS-Channel war was officially declared yesterday when Eurotunnel announced its prices for car passengers travelling through the Dover-Calais tunnel.

Standard return tickets for a car with any number of passengers for the journey, which will take just over an hour from motorway to motorway, will range from £220 for November and December to £310 for July and August. Eurotunnel claims there will be a rush of potential passengers from today when tickets go on sale at travel agents.

The first passengers will make the 31-mile, 35-minute journey on Sunday, May 8, two days after the £10 billion tunnel is opened by the Queen and President Mitterrand. Motorists arriving at the Folkestone terminal will drive onto one of the Le Shuttle trains which will run two departures an hour in May and June, three an hour in July and four in August.

Each shuttle is made up of 12 double-deck and 12 single-deck carriages and can carry 192 cars, compared to the 500 which can drive on to one of the ten super-ferries operating from Dover. Christopher Garnett, Eurotunnel's commercial director, said that capacity could be trebled by the end of the decade.

Mr Garnett denied that he would be engaging in a price war but said that the tunnel would wipe out half the ferry trade. He said that by 1996 Le Shuttle expected to carry eight

million car passengers, half the projected total cross-Channel car market. More than half the 4.5 million coach passengers would also desert the ferries, he said.

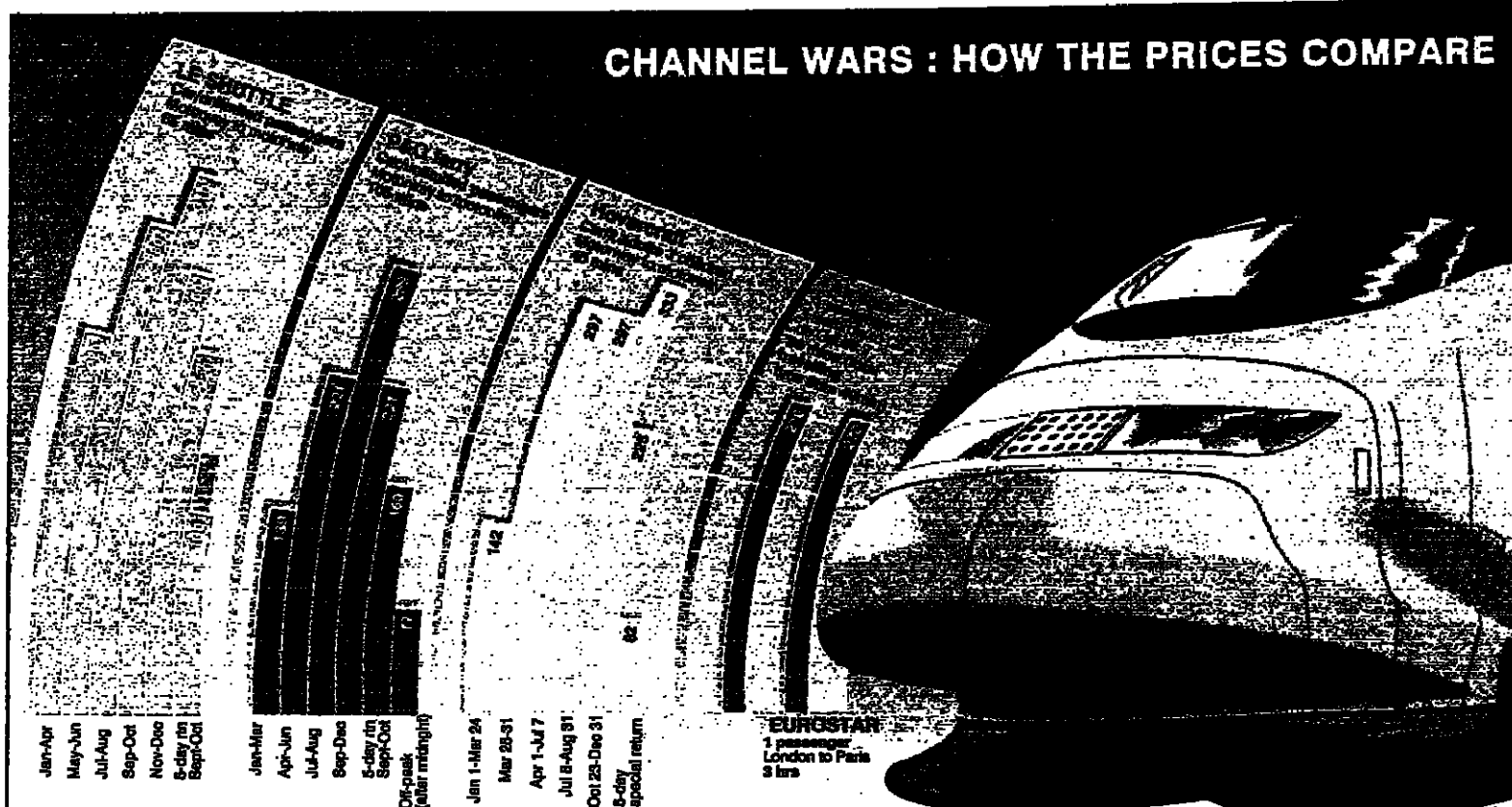
"Make no mistake, the start of our service will bring a revolution in European travel. The tunnel stands alongside the Suez and Panama canals as milestones in international transport."

"It will now be easier for the UK to be truly part of Europe. We are confident tourism will grow and that business will be enhanced by our service. It will be a no-reservation, turn-up-and-go system. Our customers will not be bound by timetables or delayed by bad weather."

Mr Garnett admitted that the shuttle might appear dearer for single, predominantly business passengers.

The ferries, which claim a motorway-to-motorway time of 105 minutes, including a 75-minute crossing, say that the reality of the journey still gives them an edge. A spokesman for P&O said: "Le Shuttle travellers will need to stop at the English or French end for a meal and to make purchases."

"On the ferries they can dine in style or take advantage of our bars or shopping facilities. We believe that for the holidaymaker, the ferries are hard to beat." Hoverspeed said that it questioned the claim of a 60-minute turnaround for Le Shuttle and said its time of 45 minutes could not be beaten.



Stena Sealink said that its prices offered far greater value than Eurotunnel and that it had nothing to fear if Eurotunnel prices were maintained at such a high level.

"Stena will be charging £188 for a standard return for a car and five passengers in May and June while Eurotunnel will be charging £280," the ferry company said.

"In the same period, Stena will be offering five-day, short-break returns for £126, while the tunnel will have only a two-day 'introductory' fare of £125. We offer a wide range of on-board facilities, including free peak season entertainment. Le Shuttle has no advance

reservation system for a specific train. Passengers will be forced to queue."

In spite of their confident statements, the ferry operators admit privately that it is unlikely they will be able to sustain enough business to continue operating ten super ferries.

The AA said it believed that the opening of the tunnel would mean a better deal all round for the five million drivers who make the crossing each year. Andrew Johnson, director of AA Travel, said: "Maximum choice is most important, and the tunnel will provide a fast, efficient alternative to ferries. Drivers can

also expect a better service from the ferry operators, who have already vastly improved on-board facilities to fend off competition from the Channel."

Keith Betton, of the Association of British Travel Agents, said the competition was bound to benefit travellers. "It must only be a matter of time before prices come down."

Graeme Dunlop, chairman of P&O European Ferries, said: "We predicted Le Shuttle's tourist fares to be pegged at a level very close to our own and this is in fact what has happened. It is a positive and realistic move by Eurotunnel. In publishing our fares last

September, we made clear that we base our product on quality rather than price."

Motorists for the shuttle will be able to time in to Cross-Channel Radio as they drive down the M20 to find out about the time of the next departure, and road and weather conditions on the Continent. At the passenger terminal, they will be able to buy a meal or do some tax- or duty-free shopping, or change money.

Before boarding, they will drive through Customs and immigration, a necessity which they will have to endure only at one end. Generally, drivers will be expected to stay

with their cars, although there are lavatories in every third carriage.

Freight traffic through the tunnel will begin in March and prices will be subject to negotiation.

No fares have yet been announced for Eurostar train services which, from June, will take passengers from London Waterloo to Paris Gare du Nord in three hours and from London to Brussels in three hours and ten minutes.

Eurostar fares are expected to compete with air travel. A standard return air fare from Heathrow to Paris costs £270.

Pennington, page 25

## Wine merchants 'stole £2m from customers' stocks'

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO directors of one of Britain's leading wine merchants stole nearly 7,000 cases of champagne, port and wine worth £2 million from their customers, a court was told yesterday.

Raymond Burroway, 52, and Joseph Mankowitz, 49, directors of Green's Ltd, established in 1787, were alleged to have swindled hundreds of customers. Among them were members of the nobility and some of Britain's most cele-

a third defendant, Anthony Boylan, 58.

Mr Burroway, of Wandsworth, southwest London, Mr Mankowitz, of Kensington, west London, and Mr Boylan, of East Dulwich, southeast London, deny conspiracy to steal wine, port and champagne from Green's Ltd and a subsidiary firm, Green's (Wine Vaults) Ltd.

The court was told that the wine was stored for customers in bonded warehouses in Wiltshire and London, including Green's head office in Southwark.

Mr Dodgson said that in September, 1990, Mr Burroway and Mr Mankowitz began secretly removing cases.

They sent a series of faxes from head office to the warehouses authorising the wine's removal and arranged for a Mr Hill to collect the cases in a company van. Mr Dodgson said that Mr Hill was in fact Mr Boylan, a long-time friend of Mr Burroway.

He also said that to cover their tracks, Mr Burroway and Mr Mankowitz pretended to sell the subsidiary firm, which handled the storage side of the business, to a John Ryan in October 1990 to shift any subsequent blame for the theft to the new owner.

"We say that that sale was a fiction, a smokescreen, so that when trouble came, as it would when they were investigated, they could blame Mr Ryan," Mr Dodgson said.

"Mr Ryan does exist, but he was a stooge," Mr Dodgson said, adding that the stolen wine was secretly disposed of by the defendants. Most of it had never been traced.

The trial continues.



Clarke among the alleged victims

brated wine experts and writers, including Oz Clarke of BBC Television's *Food and Drink* programme.

Paul Dodgson, for the prosecution, told Inner London Crown Court, that in the autumn of 1990, the men secretly removed 6,800 cases of their clients' wine from bonded warehouses and "disposed" of them. He added: "The wine was taken without the consent of customers. In short, it was stolen."

After complaints from the firm's customers and a six-week investigation, police arrested the two directors and



Wildflower clumps contain foreign specimens

## Foreign plants sow seeds of discontent

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S meadows, hills and fields are fast resembling the Alps, parts of Spain and the Balkans, a botanical society is claiming. The countryside is being quietly colonised by alien wildflowers as farmers, Government departments and gardeners unwittingly sow cheap imported seed.

Ramblers who admire the dancing heads of daisies may believe they are witnessing a rural idyll that is quintessentially English, but they are likely to be staring at clumps of flowers whose natural home is hundreds or thousands of miles away.

The threat has emerged from research by John Akeroyd, a botanist, on behalf of the charity Plantlife, whose findings are to be published next month.

Mr Akeroyd, writing in the Royal Society for Nature Conservation's magazine *Natural World*, said: "We are creating a mere facsimile of the living landscape."

The plants may appear to be the same, but native versions look subtly different and are genetically adapted to Britain's unique soils and climate. The native bird's foot

trefoil, for example, is much shorter than the southern Alpine variety which is appearing on verges and newly landscaped areas.

Botanists fear that foreign flowers, which may have no natural checks from pests and disease, could ramp up through the countryside triggering the extinction of native ones and causing environmental imbalances.

Mr Akeroyd said the loss of native wildflowers could also have a commercial impact. "The humble stinging nettle is being examined as a source of fibre for industry. We have at least two native variants of this species in Britain... and we would be foolish to lose their genes through failure to protect wild populations."

Miles King, conservation manager for Plantlife, said packets of so-called British wildflower seeds were misleading. "Unlike agricultural crops, wildflower seed is not checked for its origin. So people do not know what they are buying."

"If you buy in seed from abroad and grow it on for a year, you can call it seed of British origin."

## BBC reforms pay to save millions

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is to reform its pay, conditions and grading structure in an efficiency drive aimed at cutting overtime and special allowances. The measures, part of a campaign to shave £50 million off overheads this year and a further £25 million in 1995-96, will significantly reduce the power of the broadcasting union, Bectu, and could lead to a pay cut in real terms for thousands of the BBC's 22,500 employees.

Most vulnerable will be technical staff in the resources directorate, many of whom rely for a substantial part of their income on special payments worth up to £3,000.

Margaret Salmon, BBC director of personnel, said that the changes were necessary because the corporation was receiving less money from licences. "With increasing external costs, such as talent and sporting rights, we can increase the proportion of our income going into pro-

grammes only by continuing the drive to be more efficient," she said.

During the changes, to be phased in over two years from April, Bectu will continue to negotiate with management on core conditions of service and basic rates of pay. High achievers will then receive additional increases based on an annual review of performance. Low achievers could receive rises below the annual negotiated union rate.

Tony Lennor, president of Bectu, said he doubted that the new system could be operated fairly. "The very obvious attempts to cut pay, through removing allowances, will be ferociously resisted," he said.

BBC-wide terms and conditions of service will also be replaced by new remuneration packages worked out for individual localities or departments.

Media, pages 20 and 21

## Huskies say farewell to Antarctic

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

FOUR huskies have set off on their last expedition across Antarctica.

Max, Pujok, Rex and Urza, with ten other of the continent's last huskies, are dragging sledges on a scientific expedition before being airlifted to the United States. The dogs, part of a 100-year-old Antarctic tradition, will be banned under an environmental treaty this year.

The British Antarctic Survey, which cares for the dogs, hoped they would be allowed to keep them until they died. However, pressure from countries such as Australia, which has already removed its huskies, has forced Britain to capitulate and the dogs will be gone by next month.

The two man scientific team is travelling from Uranus glacier across Alexander Island to celebrate almost 50 years of British huskies.

## Man admits cutting girl's throat

A man yesterday changed his plea in a murder trial and admitted cutting his girl friend's throat.

Gurmial Singh Bal, 31, of Newcastle upon Tyne, had originally denied the charge. Denise Maudlin, 33, died within two minutes of the attack in October 1992 at her home in the city, Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court was told.

Bal was staying with Mrs Maudlin and her two children aged 14 and 12 at the time. He is due to be sentenced today.

## Car suicide

Stephen Walker, 31, a father of four, of New Eltham, southeast London, died in a family car six months after his wife died the same way. Croydon Crown Court was told yesterday. Verdict: suicide.

## Family robbed

Three masked raiders escaped with cash and jewellery worth £40,000 after tying up and threatening a businessman and his family at their home in Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, on Monday.

## Cliff tragedy

David Scott, 24, of Cosham, Hampshire, was found dying at the foot of chalk cliffs near his home, one day after police spent hours in rain and gales talking him down from the same cliff face.

## Crow sees again

A crow called Jasper is believed to be the first bird in Britain to have its sight restored after a 90-minute operation to remove cataracts at the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket, Suffolk.

## Bear-hug theft

A 57-year-old man is recovering in hospital after being robbed of £100 by two men in Bournemouth, one of whom gave him a bear hug until he lost consciousness.

## Bird of passage

A racing pigeon feared lost landed on the P&O liner *Sea Princess* as it left Southampton, fastest on its first voyage from passengers until the West Indies, and then flew off.

## Railway death

A man from Matthehorpe, Lincolnshire, was killed after apparently jumping in front of an express train at Grantham station yesterday.

## Fire suspect

A 23-year-old man of no fixed address is being questioned by police at Gravesend, Kent, about a fire which destroyed a furniture store in the town.

## Man crushed

A 55-year-old milkman is in hospital after being crushed between two milk floats in Chiswick, west London.

## Plumbers in deep water over ballcocks

By JOE JOSEPH

ANYONE who thought the gush of political correctness had slowed to a drip had not counted on the world of plumbing, where a new guide to anti-sexist terminology has banned words such as "ballcocks" and "female joints".

Failure to comply with the new guidelines, issued to all water authorities by the Water Research Association yesterday, could land plumbers in court. The policy document says that offensive and sexist terms such as "ballcock" must be replaced by "float-operated valve" and "stopcock" by "stop-valve".

The *Model Water By-Laws Book* even questions the use of plumbing phrases such as "bastard file" and "male and female joints", even though the terminol-

ogy most frequently heard by plumbers' customers is "the wossname".

Allan Robinson, director of the National Plumbers Association, said: "This is political correctness gone mad. You have to wonder where it will all end. This is the most powerful document in plumbing and all our members have to obey it. It dictates what every plumber must do by law, and failure to comply can lead to them being heavily fined."

He said the association's 20,000 members were "treating this as a bit of a joke really. One has said he will charge £15 to fit a stopcock, but £30 to fit a stop-valve".

Unlike the recent debate over the new English translation of the catechism, where some Catholics arguing over the use of "fully human" instead of "man",

the language of plumbing has not been a hotbed of controversy. Words like stopcock are hardly erotic, and plumbers tend to get more excited when totting up the bill than when reading through a hardware supplier's manual.

Mr Allan said: "This document has been drawn up by lawyers who do not work in the trade and there is little we can do about it. They have deemed that some terms plumbers use every day could be deemed offensive and we will have to change our ways."

A spokesman for the Severn-Trent Water Company said: "We have been using this more correct terminology since the Government issued guidelines to us in 1986. This current document brings independent plumbers into line with our own workforce."

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## Shrewd Smith rises above the fray as embattled Tory MPs squirm

"No comment — in glorious Technicolor" was Harold Wilson's reaction to the news that John Profumo had resigned in June 1963. Opposition leaders have to handle scandals warily. They must not appear to delight in the messy details, otherwise they may be accused of hypocrisy and their attacks may backfire. The best tactic is to adopt a lofty tone about the national interest and a sorry decline in standards.

Lord Wilson played the part to perfection in the summer of 1963. Philip Ziegler, his most recent biographer, points out that in the

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

big Commons setpiece debate on the Profumo affair, the Opposition leader offered "a chill and dispassionate restraint which led Macmillan to pay tribute to his 'complete propriety'. But it was still a damning verdict, inspired not just by political expediency but his puritanism and revulsion from the seamy side of political life." Ziegler concludes that it was satisfactory "to be able to drag one's opponents in the mud while

striking a note of resounding rectitude oneself, and the affair had certainly been of benefit to Wilson personally and to the Labour cause."

Similarly, John Smith, a keen student of his predecessor, has handled the Tories' current troubles shrewdly. He has not mentioned the problems of any individual. He has not even needed a sinister Colonel Wigg figure at his side as a source of intelligence and to stir the rumours. The press and television have done the damage for Labour.

Mr Smith has stuck to highlight-

ing contradictions in the Government's "Back to Basics" initiative. When Mr Smith attacked during Prime Minister's questions yesterday, arguing that the campaign was in "hopeless confusion and disarray", only a few simpler minded Tory yahoos jeered back. Most of the knights of the shire and the suburb sat in uncomfortable silence. They knew that Mr Smith was on target. That is all Labour needs to do at present.

The immediate storm of scandal and innuendo should blow itself out before long, though there are still some nervous ministers and

MPs. The events of the past two weeks have undermined the recovery in John Major's fortunes evident towards the end of last year. The Prime Minister yesterday offered a sensible defence, and redefinition of "Back to Basics" — stripping away the empty moralising. But he will need to do a lot more if he is to rebuild the battered morale and confidence of his own party. As in October, he needs again to show that he is taking a grip.

Labour cannot count on the Tories continuing to trip themselves up. Even in 1963 the Labour

lead in the polls began to decline within two months of the big Profumo debate, and well before Macmillan resigned that October. The same could happen now. So Labour is rightly continuing to concentrate on attacking Tory tax increases.

Constant repetition will do no harm before the changes are implemented in April, ahead of the local elections in May and the Euro-elections in June. Tony Blair will also press his campaign on crime, prevention. While Government means are mainly responsible for

losing elections, Opposition still have to show they are capable of exercising power. Mr Smith is a reassuring figure. But he has yet to provide a convincing account of what Labour would be like in office. Part of Lord Wilson's success was that he persuaded voters that Labour would be both responsible and could change Britain for the better. And he only won by a whisker in October 1964.

PETER RIDDELL

Peter Brookes, page 16  
Media, page 20

## Baker defends gagging orders in arms trials

BY MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Baker, the former Home Secretary, signed "gagging orders" suppressing evidence vital to the defence in two criminal cases, Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms to Iraq affair heard yesterday.

Mr Baker signed two public interest immunity certificates, designed to prevent official documents from being released in court, to protect the identities and activities of intelligence officers in the name of national security, the enquiry heard.

The certificates were drawn up before the trials of executives from Matrix Churchill and Ordtech, the two firms charged in 1992 with illegally breaching rules on arms exports to Iraq. The suppressed evidence would have proved that key ministers and officials knew of and encouraged the trade in violation of the Government's guidelines. That evidence would have made it impossible for the prosecution to press charges.

The four Ordtech executives were convicted at Reading Crown Court in February 1992 of conspiring to evade export restrictions. The three Matrix Churchill executives were acquitted at the Old Bailey in November 1992, after a surprise decision by the judge to overturn the gagging orders.

Mr Baker told Lord Justice Scott that he had signed the certificates only after he had

been assured by the Customs officials who were mounting the prosecutions that the secret intelligence documents were only of "marginal relevance" to the defence.

The certificates warned the judges of "serious and unquantifiable damage" but could result if any details of MIS or M16 personnel or operations were disclosed in open court. Mr Baker said he

**'Agents could have been exterminated if names were blurred out in court'**

had been advised that it was his duty as Home Secretary to protect national security.

Defence counsel in both cases believed that evidence from intelligence officials was vital because they knew that the businessmen had been passing on information about Saddam Hussein's arms procurement network to their MIS and M16 contacts. But Mr Baker told the enquiry that he did not know that Paul Henderson, the managing director of Matrix Churchill, was an M16 informant.

Mr Baker said he was

concerned that the names of intelligence agents and informants might be "blurred out" during the trial without the gagging orders. That could not only result in the security services being rendered valueless, "but to certain people being exterminated", he said.

Asked by Lord Justice Scott whether he should have been more fully briefed on the kind of information the certificates were seeking to withhold, Mr Baker said it would have been inappropriate for him to probe too deeply. "The law officers had approved it. That must be a sign to ministers that there was nothing untoward."

Clearly irritated, Lord Justice Scott said: "It is the absence of any questioning that I am finding a little difficult to understand. There was a pretty shrewd notion in Government circles what the defence case would be." Mr Baker replied: "It certainly was not known to me."

Pointing out that the gagging certificates were so sweeping as to prevent any information being disclosed to the defence, Lord Justice Scott said that one of the issues he would have to address in his report was the question of "why ministers signed public interest immunity certificates that were wider than they intended or required."

Neither of the certificates signed by Mr Baker was used in court. After being warned

by the prosecution that a gagging order was available if the four Ordtech defendants tried to claim that the Government knew, the four men were advised to plead guilty. Paul

Grecian, Brian Mason and William Blackledge were given suspended sentences, and Colin Phillips was fined.

The certificate signed by Mr Baker in the Matrix Churchill

case was replaced by another signed by Kenneth Clarke after he became Home Secretary in April 1992. But that certificate was rejected by Judge Smedley.



## Labour launches 'war of nerves' in the Commons

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday warned of a "war of nerves" in the Commons as it pledged to continue its policy of non-cooperation with the Government indefinitely.

Senior Labour officials said that the party was intent on wearing down Tory MPs by ensuring that all 354 of them had to remain at Westminster most of the time.

While Labour whips would tell their own MPs when they should attend, the usual notice would not be given to Government business managers. "This is not about a day-to-day war of attrition or a night-to-night slog," one official said. "The key element is uncertainty. We are not in the business of exhausting our own troops, but we want to exhaust theirs."

Tory MPs would have to attend most votes whether or not there was a three-line whip in case Labour decided to mount an ambush. "It will be a war of nerves."

John Smith, the Labour Leader, announced before Christmas that his party would end all relations with the Government, including pairing arrangements. These normally allow Tory MPs to be absent from Westminster provided they make arrangements with a Labour MP to do the same.

Mr Smith made it clear then that Labour intended to frustrate all Commons business, including secondary legislation. The move was prompted by the Government's decision to curtail debate on two crucial Budget measures: reducing

state support for statutory sick pay and raising National Insurance by 1 per cent.

Officials predicted yesterday that the greatest impact from the policy of non-cooperation would be over non-contentious legislation, when the Opposition could mount ambushes at a moment's notice.

However, the Finance Bill, published yesterday, looks likely to be the first victim of Labour's strategy. Harriet Harman, the shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, pledged that the Opposition would fight the Bill at every stage of its parliamentary process and would do nothing to help the Government to ensure that all stages are through by May.

"Labour will be making no agreements with the Government about the timetable of the Finance Bill, as part of our policy of non-cooperation arising out of the scandalous insistence of the Government on putting the National Insurance increase through all its Commons stages in one day," she said.

Normally the Finance Bill, published every May, merely ratifies taxation changes already implemented in April. However, because last year's second Budget was in November, MPs will be voting on measures yet to be implemented, giving greater impetus to any campaigning.

"Getting the Government out of office is more important than anything else," said Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman.

## Howard sets out sweeping measures to tackle crime

BY JONATHAN PRYNN AND ROBERT MORGAN

MICHAEL Howard yesterday condemned Labour's "chronic and total indecision" over tackling rising crime as the Opposition pledged to abstain in the second reading vote on the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill.

The Bill incorporates 22 of the 27 measures announced by the Home Secretary at the Conservative Party conference last October and was described by Mr Howard yesterday as marking "a fundamental shift in the criminal justice system against the criminal and in favour of protecting the public."

Under the sweeping measures — hailed by ministers as the biggest law reform package for decades — the accused's right to silence will be abolished, bail abuse will be tackled and taking DNA samples will be permitted without consent. Time is also to be set aside to allow MPs a free vote on an amendment to lower the age of consent for homosexuals from 21 to either 18 or 16.

The Bill also aims to strengthen the law of trespass to deal with "ravers" and New Age travellers, crack down on child pornography, allow the private sector to build and run prisons and outlaw ticket touts.

Mr Howard, who received

largely subdued support from his backbenchers during his speech, said the Government's reforms would "provide this country with the most effective system of criminal justice that it is possible for Government to provide."

The Home Secretary spent much of his time at the dispatch box sparring with Tony Blair, his Labour shadow, who repeatedly challenged him to state whether the proposals would bring down the level of crime. Mr Howard brushed poured scorn on Labour's "feeble" amendment to the Bill and its decision to abstain on the main vote on the legislation.

Pounding the dispatch box, he said: "The police want all these things. The public want all these things. And the Labour Party can't even make up its mind as to what it will do about them."

In his speech Mr Blair accused the Government of deceit. After nearly 15 years of Tory rule, the people did not want another dose of rhetoric on law and order, but effective action that worked, he said. There had been 14 years of power and 14 years of rising crime and not once had the Government accepted responsibility. The Tories were the great purveyors of individual responsibility, but never took

responsibility themselves. "One thing you must never underestimate is their brazen nerve and brass neck," Mr Blair said. What the people disliked, he added, was that while the Government preached to everybody about taking personal responsibility, "they did not have the guts to take responsibility for the situation they had created."

Mr Blair poked fun at Mr Howard over his reported involvement with the so-called Ambridge One — a character in *The Archers* who has been sent to prison for helping her fugitive brother. At least Mr Howard would "do less damage in Ambridge than he does in Whitehall", Mr Blair said to laughter.

Robert Macdonald, for the Liberal Democrats, attacked the proposal in the Bill to end the right to silence. It would lead to "guilt by innuendo," he said. He added: "If juvenile crime is to be tackled we must start at the cradle, not the third conviction."

### In Parliament

Commons (230): Questions: trade and industry. Non-Domestic Rating Bill, all stages. Lords (230): Debates on the NHS and pornography and violence on television.

## Brandreth backed by minister

BY ROBERT MORGAN, POLITICAL STAFF

A SENIOR Cabinet minister yesterday defended the Tory MP Gyles Brandreth, who is under pressure to repay a £200,000 Government grant.

Mr Brandreth, parliamentary private secretary to Stephen Dorrell, the Treasury Secretary, was deputy chairman of a company involved in promoting tourism. After the firm received £200,000 from National Heritage Department, it went broke owing millions. The Government decided to write off the grant.

Tony Newton, Leader of the House, told the Commons that the company had been treated no differently from any other that had failed.

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, asked: "How can the Government justify bailing out Mr Brandreth's firm at £200,000 when thousands of firms in Britain have gone to the wall, when millions of people have been made redundant?"

Mr Skinner also pressed Mr Newton on whether Mr Duncann, a millionaire, would be required to repay the £50,000 he made out of buying a second council house in Westminster. Mr Newton declined to be drawn on the issue.

## Lords shuffle follows Earl's departure

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

LORD Mackay of Ardbrecknish, the former Tory MP who lost his seat in 1987, returned to ministerial office yesterday as the Government moved to fill the gap left in its Lords team by the resignation of Lord Cairness.

Lord Mackay, 55, who as John Mackay was a junior Scottish Office minister from 1982 to 1987, takes over Lord Cairness's job as transport spokesman in the Lords, though at the lower level of under-secretary of state.

The Lords keeps its complement of Ministers of State, the rank held by Lord Cairness, with the promotion of Lord Strathclyde, 33, at the Department of Trade and Industry. Lord Strathclyde was the Government's most experienced junior minister in the

Lords and was considered next in line for promotion. The upgrading of his job comes at a time when the department faces a heavy legislative burden with the Trademark and Deregulation Bills. The transport department, which is now reduced to one minister of state, has no legislation of its own in the current session.

In a separate job change Lady Denton, 58, becomes Under-Secretary at the Northern Ireland Office, swapping jobs with the Earl of Arran, 55, who becomes Under-Secretary at the Department of the Environment. Lord Arran has occasionally looked uncomfortable in his Ulster job and the Government may have wanted a safer pair of hands at a sensitive time.



Lord Strathclyde: next in line for promotion

## MARKS & SPENCER

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# Bobbitt wife blames years of abuse for resort to knife



Lorena Bobbitt listening to one of her lawyers at the start of her trial

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

A lawyer for Lorena Bobbitt, 24, the Ecuadorian manicurist who cut off her husband's penis with a kitchen knife last June, presented a simple defence as Mrs Bobbitt's trial for malicious wounding opened in Virginia.

"A life is more valuable than a penis," Lisa Kemler told jurors. That principle, a new twist of the so-called "battered wife" defence, lies at the heart of the Bobbitt case, a gruesome marital spat that has now been transformed into a hysterical media circus and a test case of marital abuse.

Mrs Bobbitt's lawyer insisted that her client was subjected to four years of sexual, physical and emotional cruelty, a "reign of terror" by John Wayne Bobbitt, a former bouncer and Marine two years her senior and twice her size. "Lorena Bobbitt believed she had no means of escape," Ms Kemler insisted, and gave way to an "irresistible impulse" when she emasculated her sleeping husband on June 23.

For the prosecution, Paul Ebert said: "There was no justification or excuse for taking the law into her own hands." Mrs Bobbitt faces up to 20 years in prison and could be deported to Venezuela, where she grew up, if convicted of malicious wounding. Mr Bobbitt, whose penis was retrieved from the roadside where Mrs Bobbitt buried it and reattached after nine hours of microsurgery, was acquitted of marital rape last November.

On Monday Mr Bobbitt testified to

returning home drunk and climbing into bed with his wife on the night in question. He tried to initiate sex, he said, but was too tired. "I said, 'There's no way I can do this,'" he told the court.

There are still doubts, according to his doctors, over whether Mr Bobbitt will ever be able to have sexual intercourse. As her husband slept, Mrs Bobbitt went to the kitchen, returned with the knife, and in a fit of temporary insanity (according to her lawyers) or revenge (according to prosecutors) she severed two-thirds of his penis.

"I hurt real bad," Mr Bobbitt testified. "I thought she just, you know, grabbed me, just pulled it out of my body. I was hysterical."

A houseguest of Mr Bobbitt testified yesterday that his naked, bloody host had woken him up on the night his penis was cut off and said he had to go to the hospital. "I saw John there who was naked. He was standing there with blood on his hands," said Robert Johnston, of Lewiston, New York.

Describing himself as a lifelong friend of Mr Bobbitt, Mr Johnston said he initially thought Mr Bobbitt was waking him up to go to work and went into the bathroom and started brushing his teeth. Mr Bobbitt came into the bathroom and said: "You'd better get me to the hospital. I've been cut."

"It shocked me," Mr Johnston told the court. "I spat out the toothpaste and I took him to the hospital."

The couple had initiated divorce



John Wayne Bobbitt: tried to initiate sex but was too tired

hundreds of journalists always waiting outside.

The near-impossible task of maintaining the proper tone of judicial seriousness in a trial that has launched a thousand off-colour quips fell to Mr Ebert, who has already expressed his regret at becoming the "Penis Prosecutor" for the rest of time. "It's a criminal event. It's not a media event," he protested.

But a glance at the dozens of television vans encircling the courthouse or the ghastly array of T-shirt entrepreneurs and hot dog salesmen posing for the cameras, proves the opposite. Mr Bobbitt has hired a media consultant, a scriptwriter follows Mrs Bobbitt everywhere.

Manassas, formerly celebrated as the site of two Civil War battles but now indelibly linked to America's "gender wars", has been inundated with tourists. The flat "where the dismemberment of John Bobbitt took place" is in Prince William County and not in the city of Manassas, insisted a press release put out by the city authorities in a desperate and doomed effort to reclaim some dignity.

Ms Kemler said: "This is a case about a young, petite, delicate and naive young woman who for four years suffered extreme violence and abuse." But it is about more than that: the nature of spousal abuse, the relative value of a penis and a life, the definition of rape, the limits of self-defence and, of course, the demands of a society that cannot have too much of a good (or bad) joke.

## Cuomo attacks Clinton over health reform

The President is under fire from within the Democratic camp on the costs of medical care. A battle over finance will provide welcome ammunition for the Republicans

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

IN WHAT promises to turn into a serious split in the Democratic Party, Mario Cuomo, the Governor of New York, has broken ranks with President Clinton over health care reforms, promising an "all-out" campaign against the proposals.

The rift over the President's most important domestic policy initiative is bound to complicate the White House's efforts to ensure the passage of the health plan by Congress this year. Mr Cuomo's comments have highlighted controversy over their financing. The Republicans, while also split over health reform, appear united in their opposition to the scheme outlined by the President, because it puts the financial burden on the corporate sector.

Mr Cuomo's public criticism of the Clinton health plan was contained in a letter to

New York State employees, whom he warned would end up paying higher insurance premiums in return for fewer benefits. He wrote: "We are pleased that President Clinton is pushing hard for health care reform, but promised 'an all-out campaign to preserve our current New York State health plan', which is considered to be among the most comprehensive in the country."

He charged specifically that the Clinton health proposals would lead to "marked decreases in benefits". His attack highlights what critics consider to be the plan's greatest weakness: by assuring comprehensive coverage for everybody, middle-class Americans who enjoy good health care packages would be worse off.

Mr Cuomo's offensive followed his announcement last week that he would stand for re-election as Governor this year, despite suffering his lowest ever approval ratings at 34 per cent.

The relationship between the two men has oscillated between cold and warm. Mr Clinton once referred to Mr Cuomo as "so aggressive", adding that he acted like a mafioso. The President later apologised for this remark. Yet Mr Clinton has also been full of praise for the New York Governor, who was a front-runner last year to become Mr Clinton's first nominee for the Supreme Court. However, cynics contend that by elevating Mr Cuomo to the court, Mr Clinton would have sidelined an important rival and critic.



Cuomo: says proposals would tax middle classes

## Mexico revolt costs minister his job

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LAS CASAS

AS MEXICAN troops prepared to launch an attack on guerrilla positions yesterday a few miles north of San Cristóbal, the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army issued its first "state of war" communiqué, signed by its masked leader, "Comandante Marcos". The detailed announcement, smuggled by courier to a local newspaper, came hours after the rebels had scored their biggest victory so far in the ten-day-old Indian uprising in the southern state of Chiapas.

In a blunt and brief speech, President Salinas de Gortari recognised government errors and sacked one of Mexico's most powerful politicians, the Interior Minister, Patricio González, a former state governor in Chiapas and one of the headline "dinosaurs" of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

Astonished Mexicans applauded Señor Salinas's courage in removing a man detested in many circles and widely accused of political corruption. "Patricio was

the cause of this whole problem," said Amado Avendaño, the highly respected editor of the small San Cristóbal newspaper, *El Tiempo*. "He was very arrogant and it was he who denied that there were guerrillas in Chiapas last year when everyone, including my paper, was saying they were here," he added.

The Zapatistas issued their communiqué from "somewhere in the mountains of southeast Mexico". It repeated a call for Señor Salinas to resign and demanded the appointment of a transitional government; it also demanded recognition, the withdrawal of government troops from the area of fighting, a halt to "indiscriminate bombings" of rural areas, and the creation of a national commission to mediate a ceasefire.

In a separate letter to *El Tiempo*, "Comandante Marcos" apologised for the actions of some of his troops, who had seized money from journalists in the first days of the uprising, and returned 700 pesos (£153).

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Clinton puts emphasis on siege of Sarajevo as alliance leaders consider sending in the bombers

## US-British rift opens over Bosnia air strikes

FROM MICHAEL EVANS AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN BRUSSELS

A RIFT opened between Britain and America yesterday at the end of the Nato Brussels summit over a flawed proposal to use tactical bombing against Bosnian Serbs.

President Clinton made it clear he had only agreed to support a new Anglo-French proposal — effectively an ultimatum to the Serbs on the impasse over Srebrenica and Tuzla — provided the threat of bombing in retaliation for the stranglehold on Sarajevo remained high on Nato's list of possible military action. Mr Clinton told a press conference at the end of the two-day summit that there was pressure on him to substitute the existing bombing option to relieve Sarajevo, agreed last August, for the new proposals over Srebrenica and Tuzla.

John Major later appeared astonished at Mr Clinton's remark. He said there was no attempt by the British to substitute one for the other. The intention, he said, was merely to add to the policy agreed last August which allowed the use of Nato air cover to relieve the siege of the Bosnian capital.

However, Mr Clinton said that, if Sarajevo was destroyed, it could not function as a centre and would make it

"very difficult" for the United Nations mission in Bosnia to succeed. He promised that American airpower would be made available for tactical air strikes to back UN efforts in all three areas highlighted in the summit communiqué.

However, the President admitted there were differences among the alliance over the speed with which Nato bombers should be deployed if the Serbs continued to obstruct UN forces in Bosnia.

His view was that the bombing option depended solely on the behaviour of the Serbs from this moment forward.

He defined "strangulation" in relation to Sarajevo as "large-scale bombing". Serb shelling of the Bosnian capital had diminished recently, but if it was renewed "we'll see if our resolve is there — my resolve is there", Mr Clinton said. He had warned his colleagues the previous day that they should not sign up to

tougher language on Bosnia unless they were ready to follow it with action.

The Anglo-French proposal, put together on Monday night by Mr Major and Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, was aimed at resolving two key problems faced by UN forces. At his own press conference Mr Major said these were the Serbs' refusal to allow 300 Canadian UN soldiers in Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia to be relieved by a Dutch unit, and the difficulty of opening Tuzla airport in the north because of Serb obstruction.

Mr Major said it was "intolerable" that the Serbs were preventing the rotation of UN troops in the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica. Airpower was not an easy option, but there was a new determination to see that the Serbs complied with the objectives in the communiqué.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said bombing would immediately scupper peace negotiations.

The British initiative with the French was, on the face of it, a complete reversal of London's policy on air strikes. Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, opposed Mr Clinton's origi-

nal Bosnian policy which was to mount punitive air strikes on the Serbs and lift the arms embargo on the Muslims. They feared for the safety of British troops in Bosnia.

Yesterday Mr Major said that "if necessary" Britain would be prepared to use airpower, though he focused his remarks on Srebrenica and Tuzla, not on Sarajevo. British military chiefs have always been sceptical that airstrikes could in themselves force the Serbs to lift the siege of Sarajevo. In the past the government has indicated that the 2,300 British troops in Bosnia might have to be withdrawn if air strikes were launched. Yesterday Mr Major said the troops would not have to be withdrawn first.

□ Rome: The Vatican condemned the international community yesterday for failing to intervene in the Balkans, where "Europe is dying" (John Phillips writes). It was criminally negligent and cowardly to let people kill each other and wait for a peace that would represent "the rotten fruit of exhaustion or the crushing of one side by the other", the Vatican said.

Simon Jenkins, page 16  
Leading article, page 17



Manfred Wörner, the Nato Secretary-General, appears to be looking for divine guidance as he prepares to answer a question during a press conference at the end of the alliance summit in Brussels yesterday

## Serbs ignore Western warnings

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE, JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BOSNIAN Serb leaders yesterday defied the Nato threat to use airpower against their forces and rejected demands that Tuzla airport be opened. At the same time, their artillery around Sarajevo mounted another bombardment.

Nikola Koljivic, Vice President of the self-declared Bosnian Serb Republic, said of the Tuzla demand: "I don't think we'll even discuss this question. We are afraid it would be used for Muslim rearmament."

Mr Koljivic accused the Western leaders of picking on secondary issues and setting a trap for the Serbs. "We want a peace agreement now and then

Tuzla can be reopened just like any other airport," he said.

The emergency airlift into Sarajevo airport, which is controlled by the UN, was suspended again as a result of the fourth rocket assault in a week, apparently mounted by the same Serb forces. Five French peacekeepers have been wounded in the attacks.

Nato warplanes in the air above the city around the time of yesterday's pounding took no action. On Monday, the newly appointed special representative of the UN secretary general suggested that the attacks on the airport had been "accidental" or undertaken by

"uncontrolled elements". Senior Bosnian Serb and UN sources have said privately that they believed that Nato had issued yet another empty threat.

In Bonn, President Tadjman of Croatia accused the Muslims of firing grenades filled with poison gas against Croat forces. The tone of his comments suggested that Bosnia and Croatia were still a long way from finding a ceasefire in spite of 48 hours of intensive talks.

President Tadjman said President Izetbegovic of Bosnia had refused to sign a ceasefire. He thought this was a "tactical game" on the part of the Bosnian leadership.

## Quick-witted President applauded by America

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IT COULD have been a diplomatic gaffe at the Nato summit when Bill Clinton teased Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, about his ample girth, but the President quickly pulled back from the edge of disaster by including himself in the description.

The incident, which started with a joke about sumo wrestlers, showed how Mr Clinton's mental agility can make up for his inexperience on the world stage, according to yesterday's *Los Angeles Times*. The newspaper's report reflected a generally approving reaction in the American media to Mr Clinton's ability to finesse matters both bantering and serious during his first visit to Europe as President.

The *Los Angeles Times* account from Brussels claimed that Mr Clinton had led Nato through the adoption of new policies without friction or frictions "in no small part through strength of personality and a knack for not rubbing his partners the wrong way".

American television networks, anchoring their new broadcasts from Europe, have portrayed Mr Clinton as bear-

### REACTION

ing up remarkably well for a man who arrived directly from his mother's funeral. A report in *USA Today* described the President as having "dominated the summit" by sheer force of personality. The newspaper remarked on Mr Clinton's well-known "lack of love" for John Major, mostly because of the help the Conservatives gave George Bush's campaign in



Clinton: neatly avoided turning joke into a gaffe

searching for transgressions by Mr Clinton when he was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford. When the President was questioned by Andrea Mitchell of NBC, he brushed her off with a quip: "Ask John a question. Andrea. He's lonesome."

If there is a tone of surprise in the observations that Mr Clinton has enjoyed a good summit, it can be traced to his preoccupation with domestic matters and the way his Administration has favoured Asia over Europe during its first year in office. Some American commentators appear to have forgotten that he read foreign affairs at university, is renowned as a quick learner, and has loads of Southern charm.

The coverage was not uniformly to Mr Clinton's liking. His efforts in Brussels were denounced as a charade in an article in *The New York Times* by Richard Perle, the hardline conservative Assistant Secretary of Defence in the Reagan years. He wrote that Mr Clinton "cares less about foreign and security policy than any modern President" and suffered from a lack of knowledge and experience to match

## Europe to carry greater burden

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE main points of the communiqué issued by Nato leaders at the summit:

□ Membership: the alliance would expect and welcome expansion to reach the democratic states to its East, as part of an evolutionary process.

□ East-West military ties: Partnership for Peace would transform the relationship between Nato and participating states, offering former Soviet bloc states and other able and

### MAIN POINTS

willing countries co-operation in planning and joint exercises as well as crisis consultations.

□ Bosnia: Nato reaffirmed its readiness, under the authority of the UN Security Council and in accordance with alliance decisions of August 2 and 9, 1993, to carry out air strikes to prevent the strangulation of Sarajevo, the safe areas and other threatened parts of the republic. The protection force authorities were urged to draw up plans to ensure that the blocked rotation of its contingent in Srebrenica could take place

and to examine how the airport at Tuzla could be opened for relief operations.

□ European defence identity: the emergence of a European security and defence identity would strengthen the European pillar of the alliance while reinforcing the transatlantic link, enabling the European allies to take greater responsibility for their common security and defence.

□ Asset-sharing: Nato stood ready to make its collective assets available, on the basis of consultations in the North Atlantic Council, for Western European Union operations undertaken by the European Allies in pursuit of their common foreign and security policy.

□ Combined joint task forces: the alliance endorsed a plan to create new, separable but not separate multinational command units that could be detached from the main Nato structure for operations without US participation if needed.

□ Non-proliferation: Nato pledged to intensify and expand efforts to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

## Poles accuse Czechs of hijacking prestige visit

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN PRAGUE

PRESIDENT Clinton arrived in Prague last night on his first visit to Eastern Europe, seeking to reassure a jittery region that the West will eventually open the door to Nato membership.

He joined President Havel of the Czech Republic on a walk across the Charles Bridge, one of Prague's foremost tourist attractions. The sight of the cosy conversation has highlighted the growing divisions between the Visegrad Four on security and defence policy and rubbed in Mr Havel's diplomatic coup in winning the visit from Budapest, Warsaw and Bratislava, the Slovak capital.

Mr Clinton's arrival here appears to have triggered a race for separate Nato membership among the four former members of the Warsaw Pact — Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic — and a diplomatic row amid complaints from Poland that the Czechs have hijacked Mr Clinton's visit. Mr Havel has "thrown the Visegrad countries overboard" reported the left-wing Czech daily *Rude Pravo* yesterday, adding that Vaclav Klaus, the Prime Min-

ister, did the same earlier and more unambiguously. The paper described Mr Clinton's visit as "a clear success" for Czech foreign policy. Several days before Mr Clinton arrived, Mr Havel was already emphasising that the Czechs would forge their own path. "Czech policy correctly stress-

### EASTERN EUROPE

es the fact that we are independent countries that must each act for itself and follow its own interest," the Czech news agency, CTK, quoted him as saying. He added that the Czech Republic still wanted the very best relations with its neighbours.

Mr Havel will try to capitalise on the fact that he shares a love of jazz with Mr Clinton, whom he has met before, and that Madeleine Albright, Washington's ambassador to the United Nations, is of Czech descent. There are rumours that Mr Havel has booked a jazz club, hoping that Mr Clinton will play a few notes on the saxophone. The American

President is also likely to visit the theatre where Mr Havel launched his career as a playwright.

Mr Clinton's visit has been preceded by an embarrassing report in the Czech daily newspaper *Mlada fronta Dnes* by Jaroslav Basta, former deputy director of the Czechoslovak intelligence services, that his organisation worked to discredit Mr Clinton during the 1992 presidential election campaign. The intelligence service provided President Bush's staff with information about Mr Clinton's visit to Prague in 1970 as a student and interviewed acquaintances looking for information with which to discredit him. Mr Clinton stayed in Prague for about six days, with the family of Jan Kopecký, a fellow Oxford student, later killed in a fall, and grandson of Jan Světlý, a Second World War Communist leader. He was also shown around by Marie Kopecká, a founding member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party. Mr Kopecký's parents told *The Prague Post*, but they did not expect a visit this time.

## Charm offensive chalks up success with pledges on security

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

### COMMENTARY

HOW will Europe know that Bill Clinton is really committed to preserving America's role in European security?

His first outing to Europe can be considered a success. As Mr Clinton flew to Prague yesterday at the end of the summit, Nato's 15 other leaders beamed with pleasure at the discovery that a younger President did not mean a break with the past. They had feared the worst from a man who delayed his first transatlantic trip for 12 months and whose officials have regularly talked down Europe's importance and talked up the significance of Asia.

Mr Clinton said as clearly as the most devoted Atlanticist could wish that America's stake in European security was pivotal, that European peace and prosperity was

important for the United States and that Europe was America's most valued partner. His relaxed style went down well, most especially with President Mitterrand of France and Edouard Balladur, his Prime Minister, who were selected to receive a special dose of presidential charm and attention.

But as the President himself told Nato, action must match words. Mr Clinton agreed four promises in Brussels: all await delivery. Only practical results will determine whether Mr Clinton can manage the dilemma of restoring America's economic self-confidence while not withdrawing from his country's old role of guaranteeing Europe's stability. Intensive diplomacy by American envoys succeeded in stopping any Eastern Euro-

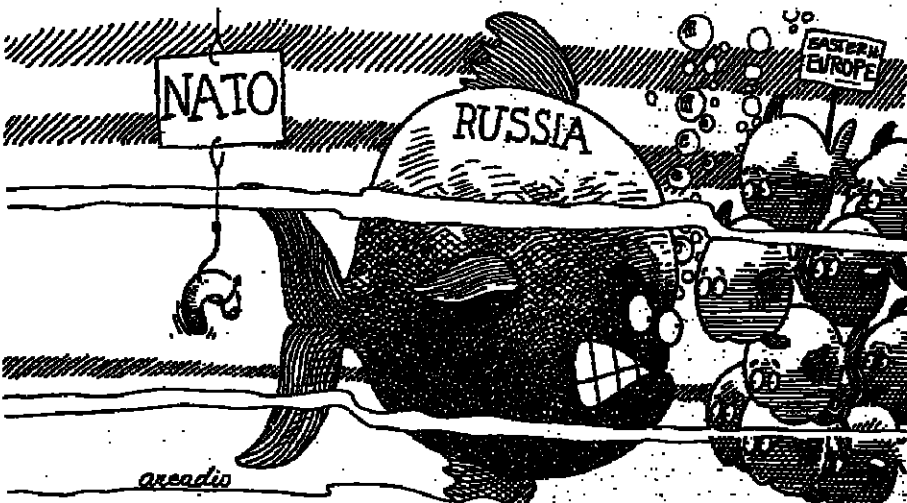
pean government protesting out loud about Partnership for Peace being substituted for criteria and timetables scheduling Nato's eastward expansion. A procrastinating fudge answered the almost insoluble problem of balancing Eastern European interests against hopes that Russia will not succumb to any imperial temptations.

"P4P", as the partnership plan is known, still involves Nato making sensitive and invidious judgments over several years. How will the garrulous Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian ultranationalist, react to Nato exercises on Polish — or even Ukrainian — territory? Despite this week's consensus, Nato still faces the task of demonstrating that Eastern Europe's security ties have

not been made hostage to Russian whim. Mr Clinton and others have to disprove the acid aside by President Walesa of Poland: "It seems that we should talk to President Yeltsin about our joining Nato, not to the West."

The second of Mr Clinton's "two breakthroughs for peace", a "framework" agreement for the destruction of 1,800 nuclear warheads based in Ukraine and aimed at the US, also waits on unpredictable events. Mr Clinton's officials claim to be confident that the Ukrainian parliament will ratify the agreement, but Kiev MPs have already stalled on an earlier missile deal and wrecked a Russian-Ukrainian accord on the ships of what was once the Soviet Black Sea Fleet.

Yesterday's summit communiqué set in stone America's new-found willingness to rejig Nato to allow European



The Nato summit as seen by Areadio in the Costa Rican newspaper *La Nación*

states to mount military operations without American troops and even borrow US communications and transport equipment. Mr Clinton has certainly taken a step

towards disengaging America from defence and peace-keeping burdens in Europe. The continent's ability to fill the gap depends on its collective resolve. Bosnia, the only

hard case to have tested those qualities so far, provoked much talk about credibility and determination but little clarity about the use of force. France and Britain cranked

up the language threatening air strikes against the Serbs by a few degrees but offered no clear sign that they would or could sort out the problems at United Nations headquarters in New York which have so far inhibited the use of air power to protect humanitarian aid. Nevertheless Mr Clinton has repaired a presidential image in Europe damaged by negligence over transatlantic links and his zig-zag inconsistency over the war in Bosnia.

Yesterday's claim by Manfred Wörner, the Nato Secretary-General, that the summit marked a "historic turning point" is premature. Its decisions, all provisional, are haunted by the question posed by so much of the turbulence since the Cold War ended: who can find the will to enforce rules of international behaviour that have been flouted?

Zulus ready to block invasion by police

Zhirinovskiy rowdy Dum



# De Klerk and Mandela fashion township peace deal in face of stubborn opposition

## Zulus ready to block 'invasion' by police

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN PRETORIA

PRESIDENT de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, head of the African National Congress, "made encouraging progress" in talks yesterday towards creating a plan to deal with South Africa's apparently endemic violence. But, through the new transitional authority, they appear to be heading for a serious clash with the KwaZulu administration of Chief Mangosuthu Buthe.

Mr Mandela went to the meeting in the President's office here determined to have his way with a series of proposals relating to the policing of the black townships where nearly 3,000 people were killed in political violence last year.

However, he discovered Mr de Klerk already primed with his own proposals. Some of the ideas coincided, and the two leaders agreed to meet again next week. Mr de Klerk said the plan covered the whole spectrum of proposals from day-to-day policing of the townships to improving living conditions.

Mr Mandela, who had said before the meeting that South Africa would be plunged into a crisis if Mr de Klerk did not accept his proposals, came out of the meeting smiling and said that "neither of us has got a blue eye".

He repeated: "That crisis will emerge if Mr de Klerk remains deaf to the proposals I am making," but added that "the progress we have made today is very encouraging". There have been a number of meetings between the pair to try to end the violence, and

Mr de Klerk insisted yesterday that something had been achieved and that violence had subsided recently.

The Transitional Executive Council (TEC), established last month to give black politicians influence over government decisions in the run-up to April's general election, yesterday also turned to ways of controlling the political mayhem afflicting areas of Natal and the black townships east of Johannesburg, Chief Buthe's fief. Leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party and Chief Minister of KwaZulu, is boycotting the transitional process. The TEC has proposals for the South African police to take over responsibility for law and order from the KwaZulu force in parts of Natal. Chief Buthe said yesterday that such a move, taken without consultation with the KwaZulu police, would be regarded as an invasion.

"The KwaZulu government will therefore not hold itself responsible for the consequences which may ensue should such an invasion take place in areas under the jurisdiction of the KwaZulu police. And nor will the KwaZulu government be held accountable for anything that takes place outside formal arrangements and co-operation with the KwaZulu government."

Mr de Klerk said that the TEC has banned the radical Pan Africanist Congress from using its territory as a base for violent attacks against South Africa. (Reuter)



An armed rightwinger patrolling yesterday the barbed-wire perimeter of Radio Pretoria which put out programmes despite a closure order

## Gun-carrying whites dig in to defend broadcasting bastion of the right

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN PRETORIA

RINGED by an 8ft barbed-wire fence and armed guards, Radio Pretoria, the private, rebel right-wing broadcasting station, has become a rallying point for whites opposing a multi-racial democracy. Told by the government this week that it would not be allowed to continue its illegal transmissions, its diehard supporters have vowed to keep it on the air.

"Since the station's inception five months ago, the government, fleeing a right-wing backlash, has shied away from closing the station while it has continued to seal transmitters of other 'independent' broadcasters. But yesterday the Home Affairs Minister, Dannie Schutte, who granted another reprieve from closure only last week, refused a further extension, claiming that it would give an 'unjustified advantage' over 200 other would-be broadcasters. It is believed he put his foot down knowing that the expiry of the temporary licence coincides with yesterday's first full session of the Transitional Executive Council in Pretoria, effectively passing on the responsibility.

From today the power to grant broadcasting licences will move from

the government into the hands of an independent broadcasting authority, whose seven-member team is to be appointed by the council. It will be the most powerful and only independent broadcasting regulator in Africa and will have punitive powers, including closure of stations.

Radio Pretoria, while promising to appeal to the Supreme Court, is taking no chances and has started drawing up contingency plans. Last weekend members of the Afrikaner Volksfront and the Mine Workers' Union descended on the dusty high veld site in Donkerhoek, 20 miles east of Pretoria, to dig zigzag infantry trenches round the installation, little more than a few caravans and a high mast. It was further fortified with thousands of sandbags. One sympathiser brought five South African Defence Force armoured gun towers, complete with gun emplacements.

A genial 40-year-old surveyor and member of the paramilitary Pretoria

Boer Commando, who introduced himself as Frank, claimed to be responsible for the defences. If the authorities used force against Radio Pretoria a peaceful human chain would surround the station. "If that does not succeed in stopping them, we are prepared to fight," he added, to nods of agreement from armed bystanders in khaki uniforms.

The rightwingers are capable of mastering a formidable force. Last December almost 2,000 members of the Pretoria Boer Commando gathered at the station within an hour of a broadcast calling for them to mobilise. Automatic shotguns, rifles and pistols are available. Other paramilitary groups, including the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), provide reinforcements.

Deon Tredoux, an English-speaking visitor at the station who fought alongside Afrikaners in the Rhodesian war, insisted the belligerent talk was not bluster and non-Afrikaners

were prepared to stand by them. "They fought for their freedom against the British and, if push comes to shove, they will do so again."

The station, with its Afrikaner folk songs, homely banter and interviews with political leaders, has become a symbol for the right, which views it as its only public voice. The presenters, who formerly worked at the South African Broadcasting Corporation, feel the ANC and its allies have taken over state-owned radio and television, which increasingly ignores Afrikaner interests and opinions. They oppose participation in the Transitional Executive Council and April's multi-racial elections.

Radio Pretoria's combative stance poses a direct challenge to the authority of both the council and the broadcasting authority which will be difficult to ignore indefinitely. Critics point out that Radio Pretoria's belief in freedom of expression does not extend to support for the new broadcasting dispensation.

But the authorities may find their hands tied. Closing the station would be an inauspicious start for institutions set up to promote broadcasting freedom and the development of the industry, and they will not relish the prospect of a bloody confrontation.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Azerbaijan President to visit Britain

Moscow: President Aliyev of Azerbaijan has accepted an invitation from John Major to pay an official visit to Britain at the end of this month (Michael Binyon writes). The announcement of his trip comes as an upsurge of fighting in the war with Armenia has caused heavy casualties and renewed appeals from Azerbaijan for outside help.

Mr Aliyev, a former Communist Party secretary during the Brezhnev era, is taking up an invitation issued to his predecessor, President Elchibey, who was overthrown by an armed insurrection a week before he was due to arrive. Mr Aliyev will open his country's new London embassy.

#### Captive 'freed'

Mogadishu: Somali kidnappers of Calum Gardner, 25, a United Nations aid agency worker seized by gunmen on Monday, were last night said by the agency's chief in Somalia to be in the process of freeing the Briton. (Reuter)

#### Nuclear leak

Jerusalem: Radioactive waste overflowed into the Negev desert, the site of a nuclear reserve. The Israeli nuclear energy agency said that heavy rainfall had caused the cooling tanks of the Dimona nuclear centre to flood. (AFP)

#### Bribery arrest

Milan: Giuseppe Garofano, the former head of Montedison SPA, Italy's second largest private firm, was arrested in connection with a £235,000 bribe paid to Francesco de Lorenzo, the former Health Minister. (Reuter)

#### Killer jailed

Tunis: Muhammad Laid Rebaia, 30, a Tunisian who killed a Swedish woman in Sweden four years ago after a dispute at her home and then fled the country, was jailed for 30 years after his arrest and trial here. (Reuter)

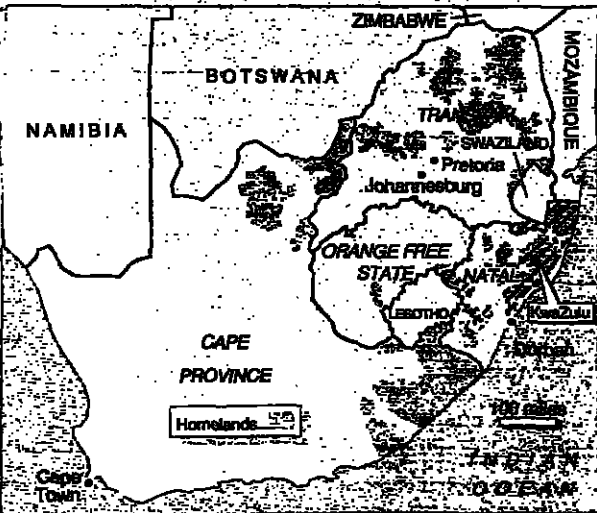
#### Radio protest

Bonn: William Marsh, head of US-funded Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, quit over a plan to move to Prague from Munich. President Havel offered free use of a building that housed the federal legislature of the former Czechoslovakia. (Reuter)

#### Clean air act

Berlin: A small Leipzig cleaning company has begun paying £20 a month more to non-smoking staff. Röber Reinigung und Service says it hopes that the bonus will prompt its 35 smoker employees to kick the habit. (Reuter)

accuse Czech king prestige



## Zhirinovsky revels in rowdy Duma session

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

ARMED with their new complimentary black briefcases and struggling to find their way round unfamiliar makeshift premises, the members of both houses of the new Russian parliament convened for the first time yesterday with a rowdy session in the Duma, or lower house, which indicated that opponents of pro-Western reforms may be on the verge of commanding a majority.

Communists, nationalists and agrarians were just three votes short of defeating the democrats in the first vote on a technical resolution about the number of members political groupings needed to constitute a full parliamentary faction after an ill-tempered, often hysterical debate uncomfortable reminiscent of the dispirited Supreme Soviet that President Yeltsin dissolved by force last October.

Liberal Democrat Georgi Lukava, a military man and former Communist chairing the inaugural session as the oldest member, proved unable to control a seething and nervous chamber in which deputies clambered uninvited to the microphone.

The parliament was held in two separate and equally undistinguished buildings, having been symbolically owned by Mr Yeltsin from his White House headquarters which he intends to make the seat of the Russian government.

Mr Yeltsin chose not to address the Duma meeting in the former Communist skyscraper in which his rival for power, the extremist Liberal Democrat Vladimir Zhirinovsky, has his seat. The Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, relayed a message from Mr Yeltsin saying: "I do not call

on you for unity of political views, but there are some common values without which we cannot ensure this country's prosperity. These values are civic peace, stability, national unity and renewal... I see every possibility for civilised political dialogue."

In a personal address to the upper chamber, or Federation Council, meeting in the old parliamentary press building, the Russian leader appealed

#### Latvia sacks official

Moscow: The Latvian government has sacked an official who arrested two Russian generals, causing Moscow to declare a military alert. Talks on the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from the Baltic state have been resumed after Latvia apologised. (Reuter)

for co-operation and called on deputies not to "stop halfway" on the road to economic reform. "Now is the time we need our second wind," he said.

But Mr Chernomyrdin, making clear that he interpreted the December election result as a warning to proponents of radical change, said that he supported a slowing down of the economic transition and that the government should seek to avoid policy clashes with the legislature. "The government will not allow ill-considered leaps forward," he said, adding: "The limit of people's patience is nearly exhausted."

He called for a "stage of stabilisation" beneficial to industry, a move which would

herald an end to the programme of tight fiscal reforms previously espoused by Mr Yeltsin's team.

It was Mr Zhirinovsky, however, who stole the show, swaggering into the building in a somber black suit with his heavily made-up wife, Ludmila, clinging to him, wearing a fixed smile as if rehearsing for the role of First Lady. The fistfuffs which seem to accompany Mr Zhirinovsky's every public appearance broke out immediately as bodyguards sent local journalists sprawling across stacked tables in the entrance hall.

Basking in the media attention, the neo-Fascist leader indulged in lengthy paeans of praise to himself, and when the meeting broke up later in shouting and confusion he instructed Mr Lukava to switch off the microphones; the elder meekly obeyed. Mr Zhirinovsky then whirled through the anonymous corridors of the Duma issuing one provocative bon mot after another and flanked by a crowd of admirers.

He offered a helping hand to President Clinton who has refused to meet him during his visit to Moscow later this week. "If you find your country is weak and needs our help, we can help you, Mr Clinton," He suggested that President Mitterrand was "in his dotage, gone crazy" for suggesting air strikes in Bosnia to force the Serbs to let through aid convoys.

Mr Zhirinovsky added that he intends to stand for the chairmanship of parliament's committee on foreign affairs and said: "Everyone knows my views. I am honest and I am right."



Pasqua: police error may be to blame

## Paris denies framing Algerian

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

A SIMPLE police error may be behind allegations that an exiled Algerian fundamentalist was framed by detectives. Charles Pasqua, the French Interior Minister, declared yesterday.

M Pasqua said a police investigation had established there had been no intention of planting documents in a briefcase belonging to Moussa Kraouche as he was being arrested in November for alleged terrorist conspiracy.

The minister said police could have listed documents coming from their own services as belonging to Mr Kraouche, the spokesman for the Fraternity of Algerians in France.

Mr Kraouche, 34, has accused police, who carried out a round-up of suspected Muslim fundamentalists last November, of committing a breach of duty. He said they slipped into his briefcase documents that he had never seen before.

## German youths 'murdered boy in Satanic ritual'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BLACK Masses, animal sacrifices, desecration of graves, and sinister blood-letting rituals are becoming a regular feature of the nightlife of German teenagers. Details of the spreading Satan cult emerged yesterday in a trial of three 17-year-olds accused of strangling a schoolboy in the East German town of Sondershausen.

According to the prosecution, Sandro Beyer, 15, was strapped to a chair and tortured for two hours before being throttled with an extension cable. The victim had admitted the three older boys, one of whom was the son of a local politician, and had wanted to take part in their frequent secret rendezvous in the forests of Thuringia.

For a while he was allowed to join the group, dressing in black hoods, dancing at midnight to the recorded music of "black metal" bands with songs such as *Cannibal Lust*, punctuating their skin with the tips of sharp knives and praying to Lucifer.

Then the 15-year-old started to question the authority of the group leader, accusing him of having an affair with a Sunday school teacher. The youths, who dubbed themselves Satan's Children, decided to torture the boy and, the prosecution says, murder him. The defendants, who have refused to enter a plea, would face jail sentences of up to ten years if found guilty.

In the past few years, there have been several German teenage victims of black magic rituals. In 1986, a 15-year-old bled to death after a Satanic

Mass in Westphalia. Another four children committed ritual suicide in the same year. In 1988, a grammar school pupil, 16, from Essen was battered to death during a black Mass in a disused factory. More recently, two young Satanists killed themselves at Forchheim in southern Germany.

There is barely a town in Germany that does not have at least one Satanist group. In Saarbrücken, the authorities believe that there are at least ten such groups. Occult bookshops are booming. All too often, graffiti in cities such as Essen, Berlin and Stuttgart include the diabolic number 666 and a pentagram, the five-pointed star used in Satanic rituals.

Dr Helmut Zinser, a Berlin-based researcher in comparative religion, says one in four West Berlin pupils is regularly engaged in some form of occultism. Girls took part twice or three times more frequently than boys.

In Essen, an information clearing house has been set up to advise parents on how to deal with children drawn into Satanic practices. It reported recently that devil-worshipping groups were resorting to "increasingly cruel practices" and gave a warning that "parents and schools were missing the symptoms of Satanic cult membership".

That was certainly the case in Sondershausen. The children made little secret of their nightlife, talking about it in school and the local youth club. They would even chant songs about cannibalism while travelling by bus.



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Oliver Walston set out to solve the mystery of a great Russian poet's fate in Stalin's gulag

# My hunt for Mandelstam

THE last paragraph of *Hope against Hope*, Nadezhda Mandelstam's memories of her husband, the poet Osip Mandelstam, reads:

"All I can do, therefore, is to gather what meagre evidence there is and speculate about the date of his [Osip's] death. As I constantly tell myself: the sooner he died the better. There is nothing worse than a slow death. I hate to think that at the moment when my mind was set at rest on being told at the post office that he was dead, he may actually have been on his way to Kolyma. The date of death has not been established. And it is beyond my power to do anything more to establish it."

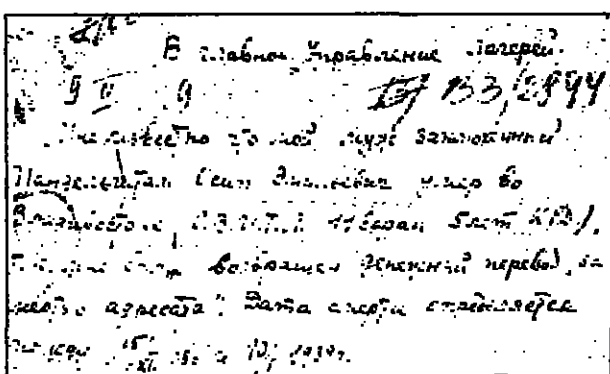
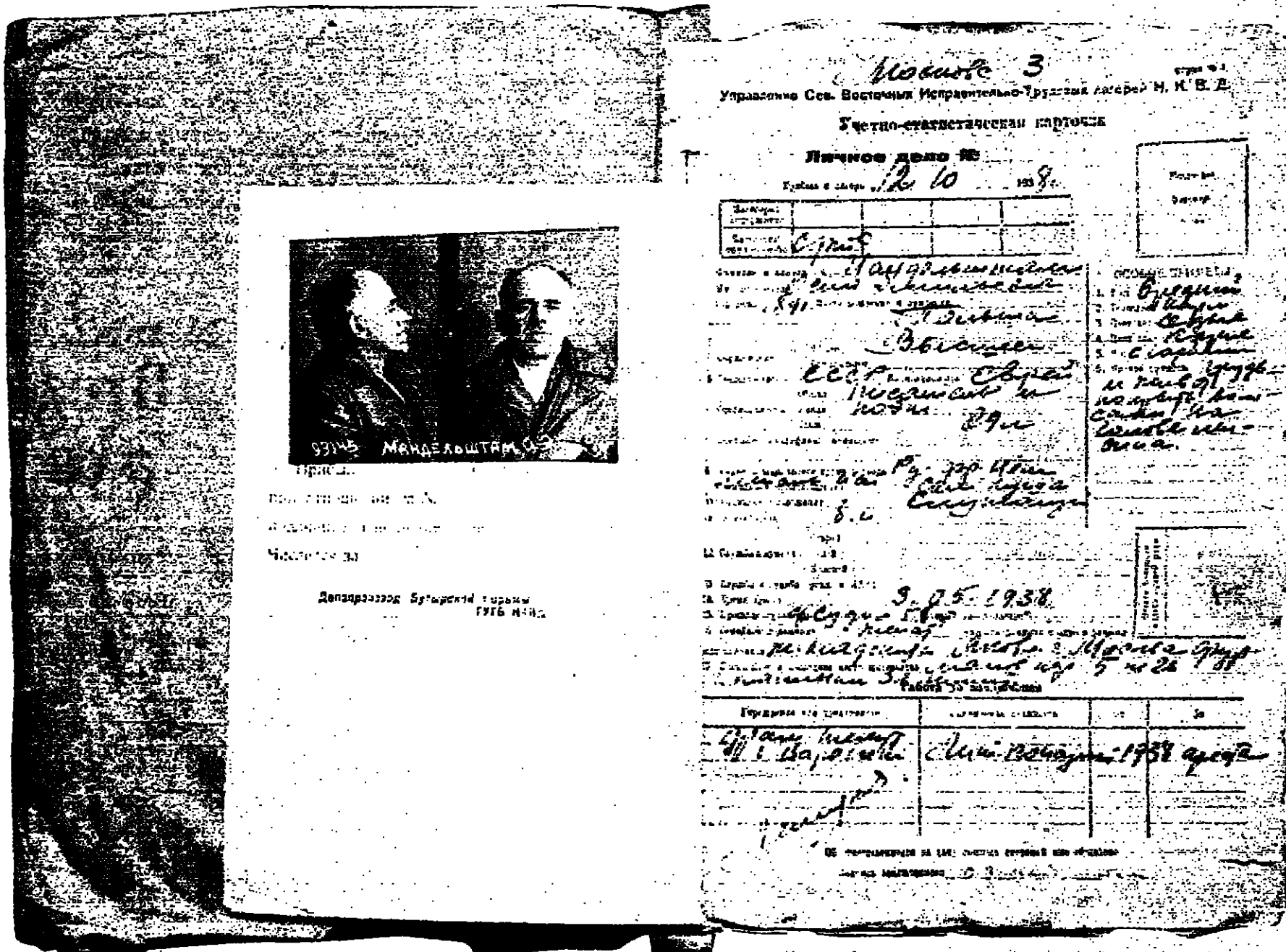
The chairman of the Magadan city soviet was restless. He looked at his watch and fiddled with the lock on his briefcase. I had been making small talk about the weather (minus 30C) and his job (due to be abolished by Yeltsin's new constitution), but the time had come to get down to business.

"What about the Mandelstam papers?" I enquired in a voice which I hoped did not betray my anxiety. There was a pause while Leonid Musin looked out of the window and scratched the back of his neck. "I don't have them any more," he replied. "They're back in the archives." Perhaps he could retrieve them? The answer was bleak. "I'm not sure where they are. Maybe they've gone to Moscow."

Two months earlier I had been sitting in Musin's office, on the top floor of Magadan's city hall. On the long conference table was a map of the goldmines along the Kolyma river, and after ten minutes of statistics my mind was becoming numb. As the translator droned on I studied the picture on the wall behind the chairman's desk. In the old days a benign Lenin would have stared bravely into the future. Now he had been replaced by a colour photograph of Anchorage, Alaska, by night.

Suddenly, and for no apparent reason, Musin rose from the table, walked to a small anteroom and returned with a pale brown folder which he placed delicately on the table in front of me. I assumed it contained some historical records of gold production or municipal housing in Magadan, so was in no hurry to examine it. Sensing my reluctance, Musin opened the folder. Inside was a faded mugshot of a balding man with tired eyes and a truculent chin. On the facing page was a form completed in blue ink with a solitary fingerprint. Beneath the photograph, written in white, was the name "Mandelstam O". I was looking at the Gulag file of Osip Mandelstam.

Inside was a bundle of flimsy forms, some typed and some covered with notations in red crayon. Two more pages of fingerprints and then a handwritten letter. It was from Nadezhda. Could I make a photocopy? Nyet. Could I take a photograph? A long pause, and then a hesitant Da. But only the front two pages of the file. Nothing more. What, I



wondered, did Leonid Musin want from me? Another pause. "We are looking," he said slowly, "for sponsorship from the West. Sponsorship to publish these documents from the archives and sponsorship to erect a memorial to the victims

of the Gulag here in Magadan."

Back in England I told the story to every Russian expert I could find. Their verdict was unanimous: Leonid Musin had been speaking in code. Like so many Russian functionaries these days, his real objective was cash. Had I offered dollars I would have been allowed to copy the file.

Of went a fax to Magadan city hall. Could I return and take a further look at the Mandelstam papers? The reply was immediate. Yes, the file was still with the chairman and he would be happy to see me. Magadan was built by Stalin in 1932 with only one purpose: to administer the coldest, remotest and harshest part of the Gulag archipelago. The region, named after the river which flows into the Arctic ocean, is called Kolyma. Even today, 40 years after the Gulag was closed, the name Kolyma makes most Russians shudder. Like Auschwitz, it has come to represent not just a place but a whole system of inescapable brutality. Solzhenitsyn, who almost omitted Kolyma from *The Gulag Archipelago* "because it was a whole separate continent", called it "the pole of cold and cruelty".

And nowhere was crueler than Serpantinka. Every other concentration camp in Kolyma had an economic purpose: to mine gold, tin or uranium. But Serpantinka had a different function. It was the slaughterhouse of the Gulag. Named because of the road which snaked down from a low plateau towards a gold-rich river valley, it consisted of only a few sheds surrounded by barbed wire and wooden watch-towers. Beside the



Could I make a photocopy? Nyet. Could I take a photograph? A long pause, and then a hesitant Da. But only the front two pages of the file.

sheds a small ravine ran steeply down towards the camp of Kantenakh, some two miles away.

I had travelled 400 miles north from Magadan to the small town of Elgen which, like every settlement in the area, had once been a concentration camp. The temperature in early November had fallen to minus 41C and the aspen trees were leafless. Low hills separated wide valleys in which the spoil from the gold dredgers had blocked the rivers.

My Jeep stopped on a hairpin bend above which a small ridge stuck out into the valley. Twenty feet above me was a snow-covered chunk of grey

rock. As I climbed nearer I saw that the stone had been wreathed in barbed wire, and at its foot were some plastic flowers and an empty vodka bottle. I cleared away the snow and found a black marble slab on which had been chiselled the word SERPANTINKA.

Back in Magadan I stayed in one of my favourite hotels in the world, the romantically-named Business Centre. Three years earlier it had been the Communist Party's VIP hotel. Today, run by the former boss of the Magadan Konsomol, it has 17 rooms, a small dining-room, and a cosiness which is rare in the rest of the world and unique in Russia.

But that afternoon I was

feeling anything but cosy. I had flown halfway round the world in response to Leonid Musin's fax and now I found the Mandelstam file had disappeared. As Musin left the hotel, promising to make some phone calls, I knew I wouldn't hear from him again.

Natasha Sokolova, with a cardigan slung round her shoulders and a glass of tea in her hand, listened to my story, paused and smiled the sort of sympathetic smile that only good schoolteachers can produce. "We've got some children here at School Number 17 whose parents work for the KGB and I will try to contact them for you," she said. "I suppose it's just possible that

Above, pages from file no. 117794 on concentration camp inmate Isap Mandelstam, sentenced to five years for counter-revolutionary activity, which the author eventually tracked down in the Gulag archives in Magadan.

Far left, Leonid Musin, chairman of the Magadan city soviet, with the Mandelstam file, and below, part of the letter written in February 1939 by Osip's widow, Nadezhda, asking for clarification of the date of her husband's death and requesting that an official death certificate be sent to Osip's brother in Moscow.

Left, Gennady Korneev, director of the Ministry of the Interior archives, with chief archivist Nina Elisavkina and clerk Natalia Oleynikova in the basement of the former central prison in Magadan, where the Gulag files are housed

they will let you into the Gulag archives, and since I've never been there myself I'd be happy to come along too."

The following morning Natasha and I stood outside a pale yellow two-storey building with bars on the windows. After three knocks the door was opened by a man whose grey hair matched his suit. "Welcome," he said in a whisper. "How can I help you?" Gennady Petrovich Korneev was the director of the Ministry of the Interior archives who, with a staff of 12, worked in what had once been the central prison in Magadan. He led me down steep steps to the basement, where a row of cells lined a dimly-lit corridor painted institutional blue and white. Along the walls, stretching from floor to ceiling, were wooden shelves divided into compartments. In each compartment lay a neat heap of the pale brown folders. I was in a morgue. Each folder had once been a human being.

There was a tap on my shoulder and I turned to see a dark-haired woman with vermilion lipstick. "I think this is what you are looking for," she said, handing me the folder I had last seen on Leonid Musin's conference table. On the front cover, written in black ink, were the words "File No. 117794. TO BE KEPT FOR ALL TIME." Natasha leaned over my shoulder and translated as I leafed through the documents. Among them was the following letter.

7/21/39  
To the main administration of camps  
I have learnt that my husband, convict Mandelstam Osip Emilievich, died in Vladivostok SVTL Barracks No. 11 (five years for counter-revolutionary activity), since money I sent has been re-

turned to me "because the addressee is dead". The date of death is being given as some time between 15/12/38 and 10/1/39.

I ask the administration of the camps to check whether this information is correct and to issue me with an official certificate concerning the death of O.E. Mandelstam.

(signed) Nadezhda Mandelstam.  
I request that the reply be sent to the following address: Moscow, Starostsky 10, Flat 3  
Alexander Emilievich Mandelstam.

At the present time I have no address, since my temporary residence permit for Moscow has expired and I am looking for accommodation near Moscow.

A few pages later I found a small, thin piece of paper with two signatures. It was the death certificate.

Arrived from Moscow: 12/10/1938  
Placed in the camp hospital: 26/12/1938

We the undersigned Doctor Krasnov, Deputy Medical Assistant, have completed the following document concerning the death in hospital of the separate camp centre of the SVTL NKVD.

Surname and patronymic: MONDELSTAM (sic) Osip Emilievich  
Year of Birth: 1891  
Place of Birth: Poland

By whom and when convicted: Special Session of the NKVD USSR 2/VIII 38.  
Article and length of sentence: CRA (Counter-revolutionary activity) 5y.

Most recent place of residence: Kalinin  
Cause of death: Paralysis of the heart and arteriosclerosis.

The corpse's fingerprints were taken 27/XII-38. In view of the fact that the cause of death was clear, the corpse was not subjected to a post-mortem examination.  
Signed: Krasnov  
Signed: (illegible)

Reading this document I realised that Nadezhda's story was not quite as straightforward as it once seemed. For some strange reason the NKVD did exactly what she had requested. They sent the death certificate to Osip's brother, Alexander, who was summoned to the registry office of the Bauman district in Moscow to receive it. By then, however, at least four accounts of Mandelstam's death were circulating and Nadezhda, confused by so many different myths and profoundly suspicious of the authorities, continued to search for the truth which she already knew.

Gennady Korneev had been waiting quietly. I closed the file and returned it to him. None of us said anything. Outside, in what had once been the prison yard, the snow was beginning to fall. From far below in the basement came the sound of a heavy door closing. Magadan is full of echoes.

Article. Through the North East Passage by Isadora, by Oliver Walston will be published by Sinclair-Stevenson next month.



ACES LINE UP FOR TOP BRIDGE TITLE

The world's top bridge players, including Zia Mahmood, Omar Sharif and Marcelo Granco are gathering in London for The Macallan Malt Whisky International Bridge Pairs Championship 1994.

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# When it comes to sex, let's take the ostrich position

I am enchanted by David Ashby's style. In a week of embarrassing, farcical and ultimately tragic occurrences on the circumference of political life, the only bright spot was the way he barked out "Dear list" to illustrate what he had asked for at the French hotel, and how even his command of languages had not saved him from the lachrymose fate of a shared one. But he did us a bigger favour by resurrecting the almost obsolete accusation that those who thought there was anything sexual in the sharing must have "dirty minds".

Dirty minds! How long is it since anybody said that? The culture has now overtaken it: all our minds are now irreparably dirty. The social norm is to assume that everybody is at it all the time, or at the very least, sublimating it. If an unmarried man enjoys running a boys' choir, a senior executive takes a close interest in a bright young woman's career, or two short-haired women share

An MP who shared a bed with a man friend says we all have dirty minds: it won't wash with me

a house, conclusions get drawn almost absent-mindedly. Even marriage is so defenceless, now that bisexuality is so chattered about. The prevailing worship of tolerance makes it even worse because you are not condemning, you think you have the right to make assumptions.

Many pairs of chaste female friends get driven wild by the right-on, approving hints dropped by acquaintances about their sexuality. There is nothing more mortifying than being broad-mindedly tolerated for something you aren't doing.

Not much fun being condemned for it, either: like Alison Halford, the senior policewoman, who found her friendship with another woman the subject of canteen gossip and public accusations. "If you have men friends, you're a slag," she mourned. "Women friends, you're a

dyke. Who was I supposed to talk to after work? The cat?"

Myself, I vowed very early to ignore. Freud and firmly to adopt the ostrich position regarding other people's sexuality. The formative moment came when I was seven, and nobody down our lane had a television set except one elderly Edwardian widow known as Clem. He wore a velvet smoking jacket and skullcap, and had a vast collection of pipes and a Pianola. He also — in a key, Lewis Carrollish way — adored children, having a particular sentimentality about girls.

So we all visited him, played in his tangled garden, borrowed his Indian canoe and walked down in the evening to

watch *Quatermass and The Pit* at his house, which was always open. Sometimes he was there, and we had a chat and he gave us chocolates; sometimes he was tired, and retired to bed, leaving us the telly and the Pianola.

But then one little girl, with particularly "modern" parents, was suddenly banned from visiting him. No doubt some modern readers are thinking I should have been. But, hand



LIBBY PURVES

on heart, Clem never laid a finger on any of the four of us, or said an improper word, or talked of secrets or detained us a moment beyond our wishes. If anything, we were exploiting him. Even at eight years old, I remember being outraged at my friend's exclusion on a mere suspi-

cious mind and became an ostrich thereafter. So I am the one who drives everyone else mad by saying: "No, they're just friends": or, "In Jane Austen's books, women are always embracing each other tenderly. Why not?" or, if necessary: "Look, they were probably just rehearsing for an amateur dramatic revival of *The Romans in Britain*".

Tell me about something nasty in the woodshed, and I avoid the woodshed. Or grow a creeper over the window.

If the protagonists themselves tell me, I believe them. Short of that, no. My children are warned about abusers, but always with the corollary that abusers are rarer than straightforward friendly people.

The mention of children, of course, brings in the problem of how far a

suspicious mind is a necessary safeguard. I suppose it is; but even so, wariness should always be practical rather than gossipy, and should be delighted when it is proved wrong. For example, after the James Bulger case, would you have been happy to see a boy of 11 carrying a crying baby through the streets of Manchester last Sunday? Or would you have done what all those devastated Liverpool witnesses wished they had done, and stopped him? Maybe.

But the fact is that Jon Hilton was saying that baby's life. For two hours in icy weather the child had been dumped in his buggy in the street, with adults passing by regardless. Jon wrapped it in his coat and took it to the police station. A good story.

Would have been a better one, mind, if an adult had noticed and walked to the police station with him, just to make sure; but we only have dirty minds these days, not constructively suspicious ones.

Does making love sap an athlete's performance the morning after? Julia Llewellyn Smith talks to the experts

## Track, field and bedroom

B e honest. You enjoy a tennis match more when you fancy one of the players. You have made rude jokes about female shotputters from Eastern Europe. You have wondered whether Torvill and Dean have really never "done it".

It may be politically incorrect to say so, but sex and sport are intimately intertwined. "Most sports people have good bodies, they enjoy using them and we enjoy watching them," says Mike Fibbens, a swimmer and world, British, Commonwealth and European medalist.

Both activities have been proven to produce pain-blocking endorphins in the body which can produce a "high" similar to that of morphine.

Sports promoters are well aware that sex sells sport. Take, for example, the Women's Tennis Association, which has a calendar, showing off its more appealing women, not as tennis players, but as pouting sex symbols. Katrin Krabbe might not have received her multi-million endorsements if she had conformed to the dour standards set by other East German runners and Linford Christie now has a nice line in displaying his pert bottom in tight, Lycra shorts.

"At the next Olympics they are introducing beach volleyball," Mr Fibbens says. "It will be full of Californian beauties, all tanned and in high-cut bikinis. That's much more enjoyable to watch than some dreary Chinese runner in a vest. The public will love it and the sponsors will flood in."

Despite the public posing, in their private lives most sportsmen and women are encouraged to avoid sexual relationships, which, in the world of sport, are considered to be both physically and emotionally detrimental. For many the choice becomes too much. On Monday it was announced that 20-year-old Liu Dong, the world 1,500 metres champion, had been dropped from "Ma's Family Army", the Chinese group that has revolutionised middle and long-distance running, because she refused to give up her boyfriend.

A ban on romance is only one of the rules imposed by Ma Junren, the coach, on his squad of remarkable record breakers. He also insists that they keep their hair short and stick to a rigid diet that includes turtle blood. British coaches may not be quite so dogmatic (some would say it shows in their results), yet on the subject of relationships,

many would be of one accord with Ma.

Some give the no-sex rule a physical base, saying that passion saps athletes of the male hormone testosterone, which is needed to give them energy and aggression. In the 1950s, members of the British athletics team were advised to sleep with a Coca-Cola bottle tied to their backs, to prevent them from falling into a deep sleep and having a wet dream.

"This is nonsense," says Chris Brasher, the sports writer and former Olympic 3,000-metre steeplechase champion. "The average act uses up about the same amount of energy as running 50 yards. Anyone can cope with that."

Most coaches, however, are

**"When the Olympics were over, the athletes had only one thing on their minds"**

unhappy not so much with the idea of sex but of love and its ensuing distractions. "This, at any rate, was Ma's reasoning for the ban. 'They are too young,' he once said. 'A 20-year-old is like a rising sun. So they have to be this way to have their career.'"

Like many high-fliers, sportsmen and women tend to avoid close relationships. "You have to be very selfish to succeed in sport," Mr Fibbens says. "As soon as you start thinking of other people, you can't give 100 per cent to your training."

Coaches are often hostile to the occasional husband and wife who slip through the net. "They like to have complete control over their puppet," Mr Fibbens says. "They are jealous of any other influence and they know that if somebody has a partner they will rely on them for a second opinion. They might shout at one of the people they are training and tell them they are useless and have to change their approach, but then that person will go home to a wife who says 'Don't listen to a word, you're wonderful, do it the way you feel happy with.'"

Consequently, sportsmen are encouraged to lead monastic existences. Restrictions

vary for different sports, but most international competitors tend to train in isolated situations and to have virtually no contact with partners during a big event.

When Mr Fibbens was in Barcelona with the Olympic swimming team, they had a 10pm curfew, after which they could not even make a telephone call. "The associations seem to believe they have this right to segregate you from your loved ones, to disrupt your life completely."

He is convinced that these draconic measures explain why the team returned with only one bronze medal. "You were there with 40 people who didn't know anything about you. In that kind of situation you get lonely, you lose your identity. You lose the confidence you gain from a close relationship, from having someone tell you you are the best thing that's ever lived."

When Mr Fibbens has been able to stay with a girlfriend, the night before an event he has always performed better. "Normally your mind's going digital, you can't sleep, you can't control your nervous energy. When you are with some one familiar, you relax, you have a good night's sleep."

When restrictions are lifted, the good times can finally begin. "The parties after the Olympics were pretty wild," Mr Fibbens says. "The athletes have been on such a tight schedule, and when you've finished and got a medal there's only one thing on your mind."

O ften, however, athletic purdah becomes too much. Mr Brasher recalls the American boxer and womaniser, Harry Greb, who in the 1920s, trained for weeks in the wilderness, in preparation for defending his title at Madison Square Gardens, New York.

Returning to New York, Mr Greb took a fancy to the lift girl in his hotel, but was prevented from approaching her by his watchful manager and trainer. "One night they came back from dinner and the lift door was open in the lobby, with the girl standing there," Mr Brasher says.

"Suddenly, he sprang across the room, slammed the lift door and everyone watched the indicator slowly move up, until it stopped between the sixth and seventh floor. The manager was weeping, saying 'Oh Harry, what have you done?' Of course, he still won."



Katrin Krabbe did not conform to the dreary image of most East European athletes

## Reforming angel with the feminist touch

Kiran Bedi plainly enjoys fame and notoriety. "I am a trail-blazer for the Indian woman," she says. "My achievements have inspired other women to be ambitious. I am acutely aware of my social responsibilities as a woman." She is sitting behind a huge desk in her office at Tihar jail, India's largest prison on the outskirts of Delhi, her small frame draped in an oversized grey coat against the morning chill.

As the day begins, orders pour from her, always with a smile and a thank you. Khaki-clad officers give a snappy salute and a brisk "yes madam". Later, when she walks around the jail, prisoners stand and clap. She waves back like a celebrity, sings out a cheery "good morning" and stops to talk. This is no ordinary prison boss. In seven months as director general of Delhi prisons she has made a hellish institution humane.

To inmates, the most senior woman in the Indian bureaucracy is a heroine. In 1972 she became the first female member of the Indian Police Service, an elite band of senior officers, knocking down barriers of prejudice and tradition with the determination that made her Asian lawn tennis champion the same year. She has no time for politicians: no time for anything much, except work.

**Christopher Thomas meets Delhi's top woman civil servant at her jail**

As a senior policewoman in Delhi she towed away so many illegally parked cars she became known as "crane" Bedi, Indira Gandhi, the late prime minister, was not spared: her bullet-proof vehicle ended up at the pound. "I can be tough," Mrs Bedi, aged 44, acknowledges. "Some people think they can climb the ladder by making political contacts. I don't have time to make friends outside office hours. My friends are the people I work with. I do not believe in working through political contacts, but of course not everybody has the same attitude."

She has revolutionised prison management: a simple concession like allowing inmates to wear watches brought a wave of gratitude from people unable to mark out long, empty days. Drug-use by prisoners and staff corruption, both once rampant, are now negligible. This is mainly due to the daily distribution of a "petition box" through which inmates can air grievances, anonymously if they wish. The name of a guard extorting bribes will turn up in the box; prisoners with access to drugs will be exposed; warders who inflict beatings will be named.



Kiran Bedi: no time for saris

The prisoners watch the staff, the staff watch the prisoners — neither gets away with anything," Mrs Bedi says. "The petition allows me to feel the pulse of the prison. Every prisoner who puts in a card receives an acknowledgement from me."

Michael, a 47-year-old Englishman who has served seven years of a ten-year sentence for a drugs offence, says: "Kiran Bedi listens to people who are used to being ignored."

She is known these days as "sadhur" (reform) Bedi. The institution she heads is four jails in one, desperately overcrowded but with large airy courtyards that are its lungs. This is where prisoners spend their days, mostly shuffling about with nothing to do. There is little vocational training. Some educated prisoners teach inmates to read; there are yoga and meditation classes, but mostly the days are idle.

T here are 8,300 inmates in a prison designed for 2,500, and the congestion will continue until a new institution is completed in a year or so. Most of the prisoners are "under-trials" — victims of a judicial system that has all but collapsed under the weight of numbers. Almost a quarter are accused of drugs offences; they can wait up to seven years for trial because the court system has been overburdened as a result of tougher anti-drugs legislation introduced in 1980.

Mrs Bedi walks around the jail at least once a day hearing grievances, giving encouragement, calling prisoners by name. She wears khaki

kurti pyjamas; her hair is boyishly short. "I don't wear saris," she declares. "It is not a fast-moving form of dress." A prisoner approaches and says he is a diabetic but has not been allowed insulin. She barks at a senior prison officer. "You'll have your insulin," she tells the inmate.

She acknowledges the affection of prisoners with open pleasure. "They will go on hunger strike if I leave. I think they are going to keep me imprisoned with them," she laughs. "These are human beings who went off the track for a while. Imprisoning a person is a temporary measure: real crime control means correcting the person. Prison is the beginning of that process."

Susan, a 31-year-old prisoner from Hertfordshire, says Mrs Bedi has turned the jail "upside down". Books are now available; it is possible to buy extras like crisps and biscuits; there is even a promise to improve the food, which most foreigners find disgusting.

"Prisoners should be treated with dignity," Mrs Bedi says, in between singing songs with women inmates celebrating the birthday of a child in the canteen. "When I was a police officer I felt the prison service failed to support my efforts. Now I have an opportunity to change it, and change it I will."

## Breakfast with a cereal killer

A good, old English fry-up is back on the socially-approved agenda

SOMERSET Maugham summed it up. If you want to eat well in England, he said, have breakfast three times a day.

He meant, of course, a proper, cooked breakfast, with bacon and eggs and black pudding and kippers. And toast and kidneys and ham off the bone. And porridge and fried bread and endless cups of coffee — all served from groaning sideboards in steaming dishes.

Now Simpson's-in-the-Strand is heeding his advice. The restaurant is to open for breakfast for the first time in its 166-year history, and there is to be no nonsense about serving cereal killers, or the mushy and herbal tea beloved of the Prince of Wales.

Customers will be able to tuck in to as much bacon and egg as they can for £8.50, plus service. Sensibly

enough, Simpson's is launching its breakfast on February 15, the day after St Valentine's day, to sop up the romantic hangovers of its first customers. The wonder, as Simpson's itself acknowledges, is why the restaurant did not launch the service sooner.

English breakfasts are what we do well. Even the French realise this. For all their culinary disdain on the subject of English cooking, the French health education committee recently launched a campaign to persuade a nation of croissant-eaters to change to bacon and eggs.

A heavy *petit déjeuner à l'anglaise* is just what the *médécins* orders, the committee said. Valerie Bussion, a nutritionist with the committee, said a morning meal "gets the body machine going. It eliminates that sinking feeling mid-morning and it allows people to eat more lightly later."

Schoolchildren fed a solid meal in the morning show improved attention and wakefulness in class, experiments in America have found. And a cooked breakfast need not be fattening, another committee expert, Dr Marc Dauson said, because the fats are absorbed instantly.

In Britain, the experts are somewhat more divided on breakfast benefits. Cardiologists are cautious about the effect of bacon and eggs on coronary disease, but other scientists say that the British fry-up is good for your brain. At the British Association three years ago, Dr David Benton, of University College, Swansea, delivered a paper to fellow scientists, claiming that "there is a very powerful

relationship between the intake of fat and speed of processing information".

Dr Benton's views were endorsed more recently at the British Psychological Society, where Dr Andrew Smith, director of health psychology research at University College, Cardiff, said that skipping breakfast could reduce mental ability. Go to work on an egg was more than just a good advertising slogan, then.

No matter. Whatever its nutritional virtues, a classic English breakfast is a gastronomic and social triumph. It is the only meal of the day during which one is not expected to converse. The story of the exchange in some senior common room (or was it the officers' mess?) of a fresh young recruit who arrives at breakfast and says "Good morning" to his neighbour, who replies "Good morning, good morning, good morning, good morning, and that should last for the rest of the week," is justly famous.

The business breakfast is an unfortunate import from America. Only dull people are brilliant at breakfast.

fast, Oscar Wilde once said. America too, is the source of breakfast cereals which have helped contribute to the decline of the classic British breakfast.

Our love of bacon and eggs began at the turn of the last century, when the town-dwelling middle-classes rejected the cold cuts and beer and crusts of bread, which had once meant breakfast, in favour of farm produce.

Country-dwellers had long feasted on eggs from their hens and sides of bacon, but it took improved communications to bring such goodies to the cities.

AS THE price of coffee and tea plunged and such beverages ceased to be luxuries, they became staple breakfast drinks. Even up to the early 1960s, more than half the population ate a cooked breakfast, consumer surveys have found.

But dubious health-consciousness has taken its toll. Simpson's action looks like the start of a welcome revival. Splendid trend-setters such as Dame Barbara Cartland, who believe breakfast to be the most important meal of the day, have pledged their support. So too have Nicholas Soames, Sir Kingsley Amis, and Lord McAlpine, breakfasters all. Somerset Maugham would understand.



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## Alan Coren



■ Back in the good old days, families were valued and life was basic

Why is there confusion over what these basics are? Put another way, can I really be the only man in Britain who knows exactly what it is that John Major is talking about?

Here is what happens when you go back to basics. You wake up in the morning because a cheery milkman has shouted "Milk-O!", and when you draw the curtains, you see that Mr Foksett from across the street is following the Express Dairies float with his little bucket and shovel. Mr Foksett is very proud of his roses. They are his pride and joy. They are what he fought Jerry for.

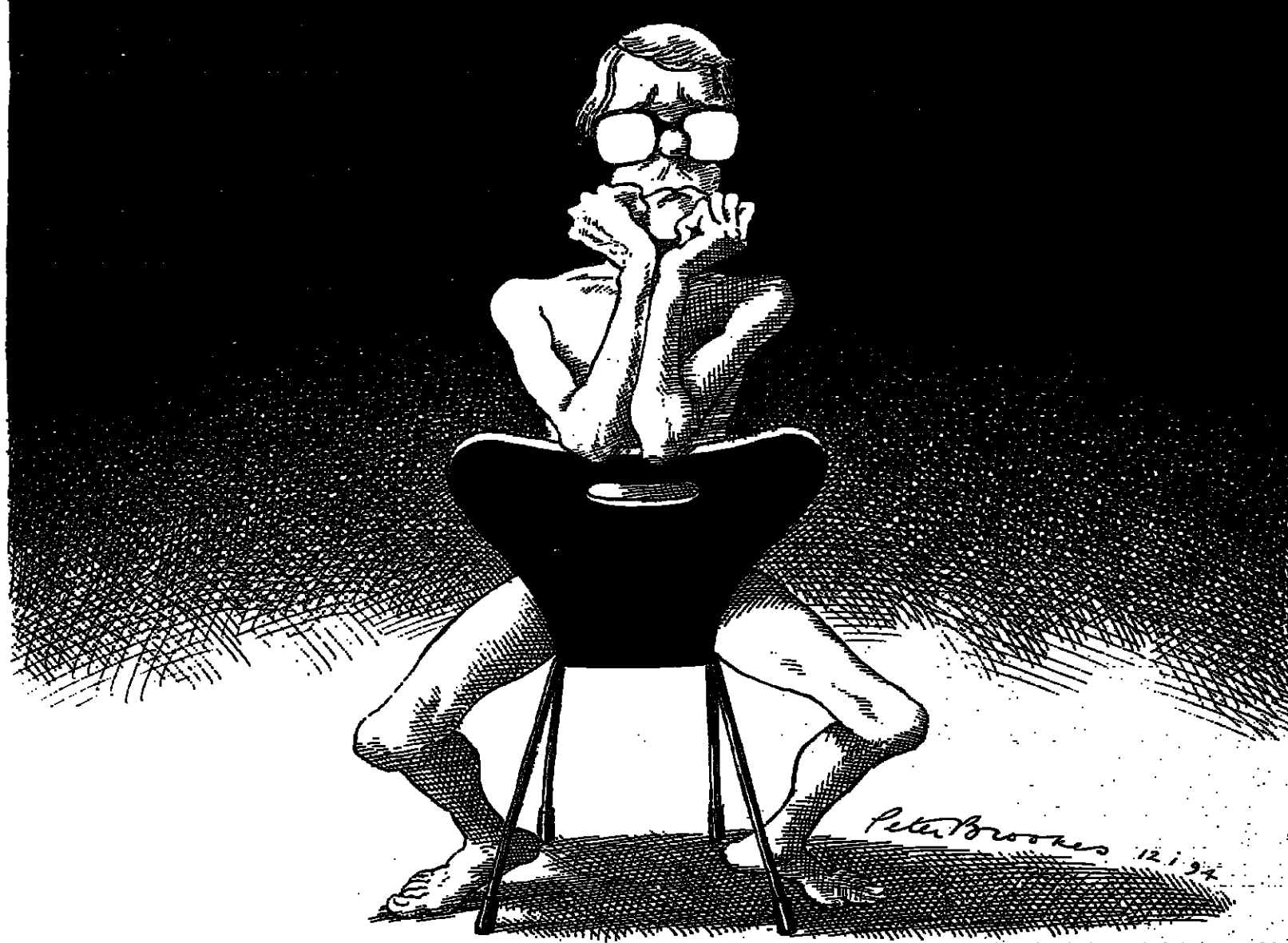
After you have opened the window and taken three lungfuls of healthy fresh air, you fold your blue-striped Sea Island cotton pyjamas carefully, draw on your cream winceyette vest and pants, button their respective flaps, step onto the Rubberoid mat beneath your Armitage corner washbasin, clean your teeth with Wisdom bristles dipped in Eucryl toothpowder, wash your face with red Lifebuoy soap, and address your Culmak shaving brush to your stick of Erasmic, not too little, not too much, but just right, as their chirpy advertisements in *Lilliput* enjoin. Shaved, you touch your Syptic pencil to a seeping nick, dab a smear of palmed Brylcreem into your hair, and gloss it with the two silver-plated Finlay's brushes you have taken from their oval leather case. Then you slip on your checked Virella shirt and your grey Meaker's flannels, knot your tartan Tootal tie, horn your Dunn's-socked feet into your Cherry-Blossomed brown Barratt brogues (so that you may walk the Barratt way) and go downstairs, where Mother is cooking breakfast.

Mother is your wife. She is a jolly good sort. She has filled the Ideal boiler with Coalite, and waxed the lino with Linowax, and Vimmed the enamel-covered drop-flap of the eau-de-nil Easiwork cabinet so that nothing will stain the folded *Daily Express* you are about to prop against the Daddy's Sauce bottle while you eat your egg, bacon, fried bread, tomato and (since it is Saturday) sausage, and she has hung the chamois on the side of your galvanised pail and placed the Simoniz tin next to it, so that no time may be wasted — after the teapooned Syrup of Figs has performed its clockwork with your bowels — in bringing an enema to the Morris Eight, which she would also have driven out of the garage for you, if she were allowed to.

And she is there, too, when the AA badge gashes your buffing thumb and Detol and Germolene are called for, just as she will be there after you have returned in the glinting Morris from the Rat & Cockle, your appetite whetted by your Saturday mid-and-Mackeson's, with Spam fritters and mashed Pom, and spotted dick for afters, smothered in Monk & Glass's custard, and a cup of Bev to top it off, because no one should do tophy on an empty stomach. It is coming along, your privet duck, it will have a beak any year now, even Mr Foksett will comment favourably. And when gloaming dulls your Spear & Jackson shears, inside you trot for a glass of Wincarnis with your high tea and Henry Hall on the Ferguson, for tonight is his guest night (your two pink-scrubbed boys, wearied by the day's bob-a-jobbing, are tucked up in bed with a bag of Clarinco jellies, listening to *Variety Bandbox* on their cat's whiskers), and afterwards, while Mother darts her cheery way through a mound of cardigans, you may smoke a Park Drive or two over your Reader's Digest condensed H.E. Bates, before the chime announces the arrival of the Foksetts for a hand of rummy and a soothing Horlicks in front of the Magical, because Horlicks know a thing or two about sleep.

And now it is 10.30, bong goes the Gamage's bracket clock, crackle goes the Foksetts' departing Pakamaks, oink goes the Brassode stair-rod on the seventh step, sizzle goes the Seratend in the bedside tumblers, click goes the lightswitch on the Ediswan. Soon it will be Sunday, the *Empire News*, your navy-blue Horne's worsted, a lusty chorus of *Jerusalem*, a shilling in the plate, and, to follow, Mother's matchless steak-and-kidney nodding (the secret is Aitora).

And that is all there is to say about John's notorious slogan. Except, perhaps, that it was an advertisement for something which itself had never really been anything more.



## Where next for Nato?

Russia has become a possible threat once again, but America is now unlikely to come to the defence of Eastern Europe

Look your eyes for a moment from "back to basics" at home. Consider "back to basics" abroad. "You are risking a third world war," said the Russian demagogue Vladimir Zhirinovskiy of this week's Nato summit. Are we? If so, we should be told. The seeds of appeasement are sown in every vague communique.

President Clinton's exasperated speech in Brussels on Monday was understandable. Stripped of diplomacy it said: you Europeans twitter on about collective security, yet you do nothing about Bosnia. You want us to give you guarantees of intervention when things go wrong, but you do nothing to keep them right. You are all over the shop. You want us to push the Nato border farther east. Then you want us to deter Russian neo-imperialism. Well too bad. We are more interested in Japan and China. We shall deal with Russia our way. You can comfort the small fry.

At this point, blood drains from Europe's cheeks. Douglas Hurd mutters that he might drop a little bomb on Bosnia to show his machismo. But beggars can't be choosers. The rock on which Nato rests is the old American willingness to fight anybody who threatens to tear Europe apart. The willingness was activated twice this century, against Germany. It was activated a third time when Nato was set up, to defend Western Europe against Russia. It has now been requested by the former communist countries of Eastern Europe against the same threat. As a Polish ambassador said on Monday, "We are lost in a grey zone. We have no allies, no guarantees."

Let us go back to an argument in Washington 45 years ago. It was between the drafters of the Nato treaty and the Senate foreign relations committee. It was blunt. Europe wanted the Americans to promise to go to war again if any Nato member was attacked. The American response was, "Er, um, perhaps, if..." Only Congress could declare war. Why not offer "measures" rather than "military action". The Europeans, led by the British ambassador, Sir Oliver Franks, said this was not good enough. A less than wholehearted commitment might satisfy the allies, but it would signal disastrous weakness to the Russians. Nato security should mean what it said, and say what it meant.

The outcome was the famous Franks-Acheson article five of the Nato treaty. An attack on one member of Nato "shall

be considered an armed attack against them all". In the event of such attack, each member will "forthwith" take action to resist it. This pledge was backed with American troops on the ground and with often hysterical American demagogues of Russians. The American people had to accept the catastrophic implication of the pledge, even where there was no threat to American soil. At the formal signing of the Nato treaty, a marine band played "It ain't necessarily so". Yet who can doubt that article five did more than anything to keep the Cold War cool?

A year ago, the Russian Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, made what was treated as a satirical speech. He warned the West not to take Russian liberalism for granted. Just imagine, he said with a smile, if Boris Yeltsin were hamstrung by reactionary forces in Parliament. Imagine a surge of Russian nationalism under a demagogue. Imagine a movement to push the Russian frontier back to that of the old Soviet Union and even beyond. Imagine a huge and disaffected Russian army summoned to support all Slaves against oppression. He said this in December 1992. We laughed.

I wonder how history will see that speech, which has all but come true within 12 months. If I were a Lithuanian or a Ukrainian, a Pole or a Slovak, I would be more than jittery at the rise of Mr Zhirinovskiy and the ambivalence of the Russian generals. I would look urgently for a powerful ally. Hence the request to join Nato.

Some Nato members have sympathised. America has not. Washington's *Realpolitik*, led by the Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, will do nothing that might undermine President Yeltsin. Any advance of the Nato guarantee near, to even up to, the Russian border would, we are told, strengthen opposition to Mr Yeltsin. More ominous, it would be

dishonest. The American people would not accept their troops confronting a Russian *Blitzkrieg* through Lithuania, Belorussia, Ukraine or Moldova. They would not do so even if the tanks rolled on into Poland or Slovakia. Nothing has changed since 1950 or 1958. Americans might be upset, as they were over Afghanistan. But upset Americans do not stop tanks.

Military strategists are now realising that the unthinkability of nuclear weapons has made limited conventional war more plausible. Europeans are killing each other with bayonets and hand grenades. The deterrent is losing its bite. A battle to stop a Russian army advancing into the Baltics or Poland would at first be conventional and extremely messy. It would require huge numbers of soldiers with logistical support. It might ultimately require tactical nuclear deterrence.

Without America, such conflict would be vulnerable to every 20th-century horror: Russian victory, German expansion, the spread of Balkan atrocities, the rise of dictatorship, mass migration of refugees.

America is deaf to such alarmism. It is led by a neo-Orientalist president, a party isolationist Congress and a pathological fear of military casualties overseas. Hence the formula put together in Washington to fob off the new applicants: a "Partnership for Peace" with no security guarantee. Hence the stalling ideas of new applicants "proving their democratic credentials", of Nato becoming a united services club for military co-operation and bonhomie, embracing even Russia. This is like saying to a sinking ship that it can have a lifeboat only if it makes it first to port. This is not the Nato that Lithuania wants to join. It want Nato's territorial guarantee at its shoulder now.

Simon Jenkins

## Ruthless bastards make their own rules

We must make exceptions for our leaders, argues

David Hart

Many senior Tories must now be cancelling their subscriptions to the tabloid papers and making plans to spend more time with their own or other people's families. Most comment so far has assumed that there is a known, defined and understood set of moral rules for their private lives, which governs the behaviour of ministers — and which, if breached, dictates that they must resign from office.

Those rules, presumably, permit adultery as long as it is discreet, favour abortion but frown on adulterous child-getting, and permit divorce and remarriage but not remaining married for the sake of the children while spending time with a mistress.

The moral code for ministers' private lives has never been clearly defined — certainly not under Gladstone, Asquith or Lloyd George. Many modern prime ministers and ministers had, and still have, unconventional private lives.

The press seems to be tightening the rules that are supposed to apply to ministerial private lives, and to be doing so largely at whim. The most hypocritical aspect of that process is that while the media insist on such rules for ministers, they certainly do not insist that they be followed by themselves or any other group in the ruling elite, including teachers, opposition politicians, churchmen or leading businessmen.

If the process is allowed to continue unchallenged, we are likely to get a class of political leaders who are so odd, so out of touch with ordinary reality and so astonishingly asexual, that they will be quite unable to understand the normal and normally-troubled individuals whom they are elected to govern. Or else they will be so utterly fraudulent about their own private lives that they are likely to be as fraudulent in performing their public offices.

Libertarians instinctively rejoice to see the high brought down low, because they fear the excessive power of government, and believe that freedom can only be safeguarded by constant opposition to the State and all who sail in her. But thoughtful commentators should ask themselves what our rulers are supposed to do, and what sort of people are needed to do it.

The modern tendency is to ask them to be just like ordinary people, except in their private morality. It is a tendency that politicians have fecklessly encouraged. Not long after he became Prime Minister, John Major allowed television cameras to film him sitting in a cafe eating bacon and eggs or baked beans or both. Even though he was flying in the face of dietary advice from Edwina Currie and Virginia Bottomley, who favour salads and fruit, he wanted to convince the electorate that he was just like them.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is spoken of approvingly by journalists as being "bloke-ish", and has let it be known that he could just as easily have become a jazz musician or manager of a football club as manager of the British economy.

Ordinary people like to think of themselves as decent, and many of them are, most — but not all — of the time. They have been encouraged by unthinking commentators, servants of political correctness and tabloid journalists to demand of their political leaders that they be decent also.

But that is the last thing we should want, and certainly the last thing we need. Government must lead the nation in confronting the challenges that it faces, especially the challenges to its survival, independence, prosperity and social cohesion. Such challenges are frequently utterly ruthless, because they are the work of powerful and disciplined nations intent on domination (as was Nazi Germany), or secretive terrorist groups intent on destroying the State (as is the IRA). Or else they are extremely difficult to deal with because they are the result of irrepressible internal social tensions.

We face intense economic competition, a fragile economic recovery, social unrest which expresses itself in endlessly increasing crime, increasing terrorism on both sides of the religious divide in Northern Ireland, and significant international tensions that may require military intervention if we are to safeguard our vital national interests.

Individuals who can lead the nation in confronting such challenges need to be highly ambitious, utterly ruthless, thoroughly aggressive, very self-confident, full of vitality, with the gift of command and a singular will to power. Individuals with such characteristics are different from the rest, and the rest should understand that and accept it.

Above all, the rest should understand and accept that if their leaders have different characteristics, they will frequently have different private lives. If we are to survive and prosper, we need exceptional men to lead us, not ordinary decent blokes. If Mr Major's Government is to survive, he must quickly find the bastard that we must all hope he has within him.

## Economic diplomacy

FIRST it was the Arabs and the Israelis. Then it was the turn of Tiny Rowland and the Fayed. Now one of the greatest feuds of the Eighties is also threatening to come to a peaceful conclusion. Yes, Sir Alan Walters and Lord Lawson want to kiss and make up.

Or, to be more precise, Walters would like to. Speaking from Washington, the man who persuaded Mrs Thatcher that he was right about exchange rates and Lawson wrong (so prompting Lawson's resignation) is conciliatory itself.

Lawson, he says, was spot on about virtually everything — except for his fatal attraction to the Deutschmark. "Lawson was quite right. We're buddies under the skin. It was just those damned exchange rates. I would like to make my peace with Lawson. I have enormous admiration for him."

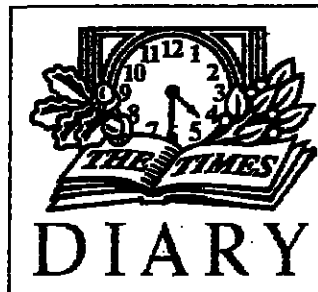
What Lawson currently thinks about Walters is less clear. He is hard at work on a lecture that his supporters hope will restore his somewhat tarnished reputation. Ten years after the Mals lecture that banished Keynes and introduced Lawsonomics to the world, he is to give a commemorative reprise at the London School of Economics in the spring.

But will he be forgiven? Walters is doubtful. "Lawson was a great reformer on taxation. But he is a tragic figure: a great man who had a fatal flaw. I think he believed he was one of the greatest world financial statesmen. He just stopped listening to the arguments." The peace process, it seems, has some way to go yet.

## What's cooking?

AS the Tories face up to whether it's back to basics at Westminster or back to my place, there is at least some good news on the horizon for the Prime Minister. *Scallywag*, the satirical magazine, is formally raising the white flag. On Friday, the High Court will hear Major's lawyer announce that *Scallywag* promises not to repeat the allegations concerning his private life.

Coincidentally, the same day sees the favoured Downing Street caterer Clare Latimer in her Groucho Club talking about her book *Clare's Kitchen*, to be published in May. "It's just a series of anecdotes and recipes," says Latimer, who claims to have cooked for seven prime ministers. "One of my favourites is pears in wine. I particularly like the presentation.



They are usually served whole in a blob, but I have a new and trendy way of serving them."

## Messing about

LEADING LIGHTS from the sailing world, including the round-the-world yachtswoman Vivien Cherry, were here to in Hammer-smith last night to celebrate the launch of the Centenary Year programme of the London Corinthian Sailing Club.

Sailing on such a tidal stretch of the Thames presents particular difficulties, says solo Atlantic yachtsman Peter Hopps: "You can get a weekend when water and daylight do not coincide: when the tide is in there is no daylight."

"You have to get used to the winds and the tide," adds James Herbert, son of former president and celebrated author Sir Alan (A.P.) Herbert.

A.P.H., who was president of the club from 1943 until his death in 1971, gained little from such testing conditions, according to his son. "He had a Lug-sail called Bee and although he joined the club in 1923, he won only one race — when the boat in front was rammed by a rowing-eight."

● The Conservative legal affairs committee and Society of Conservative Lawyers anticipate a bigger than usual turnout from MPs and peers for their joint meeting in the Commons later this month. Its subject? Financial consequences of marriage break-up, divorce law reform and the Child Support Agency.

## Marry a Tory

THE cherubic face of Jeremy Maddox, Kenneth Baker's agent in Mole Valley for three years and one of "Ken's babies", pops up in Smith Square tomorrow as the new head of the Tory youth movement. His task is to hunt down the party's "future leaders".

John Major will also find him dedicated to instilling the "back to basics" philosophy into young heads. Maddox, 28, wants to bring back the round of local functions at which nicely-bred young ladies joined up in the hope of netting a husband. Car rallies and treasure hunts were always deemed to be

the best husband-catching pursuits. "There was always this perception about joining the Young Farmers and Young Conservatives to meet people," says young Maddox. "I want to reintroduce that and make it more fun." More like the old Conservatives.

## Smoke-filled rooms

IN Hollywood, they say, the best deals are done at Alcoholics Anonymous. But there's no question of giving anything up at the BBC, where aspirants have discovered that the path to progress at Broadcasting House begins in one of the three small smoking-rooms that have appeared since smoking was banned in the rest of the building. Networking possibilities are apparently limitless, if one can cut

through the fog. One ashen-faced young journalist says the odd cigarette break affords an extraordinary chance to bump into senior members of staff who leave their executive suites for a smoke. "I always make use of the possibilities. Some of my best contacts have been made over a cigarette and a cup of coffee."

Executive puffers such as John Tydemann, the 40-a-day head of drama at BBC radio, make regular forays — albeit reluctantly. "The smoking rooms are so vile that most people would die before going into them," Pat Ewing, the cigarette-smoking controller of Radio 5, prefers to do without. "I try to avoid smoking in the office," she says. And look what happened to Radio 5.

● The Royal Shakespeare Company kicks off its first season under the generous patronage of food and drinks group Allied Lyons with, among other things, The Merchant of Venice, in which Antonio utters the appropriate pledge to his friend Bassanio: "My purse, my person, my extremest means / Lie all unlocked to your occasions." The RSC's new sponsor, however, is doubtless looking forward to an early revival of Twelfth Night, in which Sir Toby Belch says: "Dost thou think because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?"







## A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE

A conversion which leads the way to reform.

The Duchess of Kent's decision to join the Catholic church is a private matter; the spiritual impulse that has led her from Canterbury to Rome is nobody's business but her own. Nonetheless, her conversion also has a public dimension. It is inconceivable that so loyal a member of the royal family would have taken this apparently unprecedented step without the Queen's complete approval. If Buckingham Palace raised no objection, a discreet but highly significant signal has been sent about the Crown's perceptions of its future links with the Church.

As a comparatively minor member of the royal family, the Duchess of Kent is subject to fewer religious restrictions than those closer in line to the throne. But the weight of the constitution is firmly against members of the royal family becoming Catholic. The Act of Settlement, for example, requires that the sovereign be a communicant Anglican, while the Royal Marriages Act severely limits the freedom of members of the royal family to marry, divorce or remarry.

These two antiquated laws are the bedrock of the modern monarchy's links with the Church and enshrine the ancient fear of Popery and absolutism at court. The religious paranoia of 17th century high politics and of the constitutional settlement which they spawned is still etched in the nation's law.

Such prejudice has no place in a modern constitution binding a pluralistic society. The religious convictions of those who hold high office or perform public duties are of little interest to most citizens. Nobody could seriously suggest that the Duchess's choice to embrace Catholicism will in any way undermine the credibility of the monarchy or pose a threat of any sort. On the contrary, the consent of Buckingham Palace indicates a highly encouraging turn in the thinking of those advising the royal family and a willingness to look afresh at the Crown's relationship with the Church. In constitu-

tional debate, it is always wise to remember Lord Falkland's principle that "when it is not necessary to change, it is necessary not to change". The religious functions and attributes of the monarchy are deep-rooted, long predating Henry VIII's break with Rome which made the sovereign head of the Church. The monarch's symbolic role as defender of the faith is one of the "dignified" parts of the constitution which, in Bagehot's view, commanded the deference of the nation. The divinity that hedges a king has long been regarded as a foundation of monarchy.

Yet in recent years this religious aura and the moral expectations which accompany it have become more of a hindrance to the institution of the monarchy. Some churchmen have claimed that the misfortunes of the Prince of Wales's marriage have made him unfit to rule. Last month, the Venerable George Austin, the Archbishop of York, declared that the Prince's alleged adultery endangered his claim to the throne on the ludicrous grounds that a man who cannot keep his marriage vows could not be trusted to uphold the solemn oath of kingship. Absurd as such charges are, they have an unhealthy cumulative effect upon public confidence in the monarchy. Far too much attention is now paid to the private morality of the royal family; as a result, the institutional role of the monarchy as a symbol of nationhood has been obscured by sensation and salaciousness.

Like the remarriage of the Princess Royal, the conversion of the Duchess of Kent suggests a new willingness on the part of the royal family to draw a clear line between its private and public activities; between matters of private conscience and genuine affairs of state. It points to possible changes in the bonds between Church and Crown. Disestablishment is still a remote prospect. But by endorsing the Duchess's conversion, Buckingham Palace has given its implicit approval to a shift that is long overdue.

## RHETORICAL STRIKES

More wind from Nato will only fan Bosnia's fire

Nato's threats against the Bosnian Serbs have long failed to convince. Thus they have also failed, dismally, to deter. The leaders of Nato states, in a communiqué issued in Brussels yesterday, reaffirmed their "readiness to carry out air strikes if necessary". Virtually identical to the one issued last August, it is hardly the mother of all threats. Its timorous scale and unimaginative contours mark once more the shabbiness of Nato's policy on Bosnia.

The problems of that ravaged state are many. Four command immediate attention: the Serb siege around Sarajevo, mounted from the hills that strangle it in their embrace; blockading in Srebrenica, a so-called safe haven, of Canadian United Nations troops; the closure of Tuzla airport to relief flights; and the continued, brazen breach of the "no-fly zone" by Serbs and Croats. Empty, unfocused threats are unlikely to force changes in Serb and Croat policy. They will only nourish the cosy sense of violent accomplishment that now prevails, especially in the Serb camp.

Any action taken now, however effective and committed, will be several thousand lives too late. That, however, should not excuse further pusillanimity. Nato must identify specific objectives, lay down crisp ultimatums, and deal firmly with failures to meet them. The Serbs must be given a week to "unlock" Tuzla airport. Humanitarian aid to thousands depends on access to its runways. A similar deadline should be imposed for the release of the Canadian contingent, to be relieved by its designated Dutch successors. Failure to meet these

demands should earn the Serbs punitive airstrikes. As for breaches of airspace in the "no-fly zone", the response must be swift.

Most pressing of all is the siege of Sarajevo, and the need to act there is the greatest. But the problems of that city did not begin yesterday, and Nato has squandered the many chances it had to intervene. Airstrikes, while serving as effective responses to specific, and localised, examples of aggression, are not the answer. In fact, the mightiest rains now despair of ever finding a solution.

This frustration was evident in President Clinton's language on the matter at the Nato summit. "If you lack the determination to deliver what you have promised," he said, "do not make promises." In the context, with all its expectations of diplomatic cuddling and kissing, this was a stinging rebuke to Europe's leaders. It is criticism that they richly deserve. Their threats to use force have degenerated to the level of pure rhetoric, of empty sabre-rattling, devoid of deterrent effect and credibility. The Serbs know this, as they pound Sarajevo daily, and miserably. The Croats know this, too. And, most dangerously, the Bosnian government has long since lost hope. This explains, in part, its determination to gamble everything on renewed military offensives against the increasingly vulnerable Croats. It is tired of promises and expressions of solidarity.

President Clinton spoke his mind and he must be congratulated for that. If it means an end to vacuous rhetoric, then some good, and some truth, might be said to have emerged from the Nato summit.

## CHARIOTS OF WIRE

There is more to shopping than a robot on wheels

The shopping trolley is the emblem of the age. It has had more impact on everyday life than the nuclear missile. It is more ubiquitous even than the modern joggers in his shell suit, though, like joggers, stray trolleys can turn up crooked miles away from their home bases. Any day, one or other of them will be found abandoned in a couloir half way up Everest.

The chariots of wire have transformed shopping, which until they arrived had remained recognisably the same as Stone Age barter. Today, few persons of either sex do not push a shopping trolley, usually at a time when everybody else is doing so. The trolley for the Space Age is being programmed to price the items in its belly as well as carrying them, so making check-out assistants redundant, and ending the queues and grumbling that remain the traditional aspect of the modern market-place.

The technology that makes it possible for a trolley to identify and charge for 50 items a second is a device called a transponder, which automatically retransmits a signal. During the war, a primitive transponder was used to identify approaching aircraft. Now sophisticated, microchipped and miniaturised, it is going to be able to distinguish Marmite mechanically from marmalade at check-out gate 16, instead of Angels One Five from Bandits in the Ops room; and the indistinguishable, undistinguished Muzak of the hypermarket can be replaced by the martial march of the "Dambusters".

These clever new trolleys are still in re-

search and development. But an industry that cannot yet invent and manufacture a trolley that goes straight must limp before it can rust. At present all four wheels of trolleys are firmly locked in stable directions, three wheels wanting to go shopping, and the fourth trying perversely to escape through the automatic doors into the car park.

The modern supermarket is a place where you can find everything you want except the children when you are ready to leave and some notion of the bill before it chatters out. The shopping trolley of the future will calculate the cost of problematic items such as unpackaged fruit, cope with customers who change their minds, take payment by credit card or even obsolescent cash, carry the plastic bags to the car, wish that its temporary drivers may have nice days, and find its way back to base from wherever it has been dumped. By then it may even be able to run straight on all four wheels.

But the clever trolley will also destroy the recent new pleasure of the check-out queue, the superior consumerly correct feeling about the households that buy the goods in the trolleys in front. Trolleys will soon pass out in the twinkling of an eye, giving no time for surreptitious snooping and gossip. And even a transponder accurate to the smallest microchip is not going to reassure an impulse-buyer that it has added the outrageously huge bill up accurately. Trolleys may be going to take over all of the ancient trade of shop-keeper. They will never replace the civilising friction of shopping.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Grassroots verdict on personal morality in politics

From the Marquis of Lansdowne

Sir, The selection of candidates for election to Parliament is a matter for constituency political associations, as is also the deselection of elected members. The appointment of ministers of the Crown, in which office they are to serve, to which office they are to be transferred and whether they are to continue to serve in the Government or not, are the sole responsibilities of the monarch to form a government. The Queen's First Minister has therefore great power — a power previously exercised by the monarch.

From all that I have read or heard, Mr Yeo was put under such strong pressure by his constituency Conservative association that he very reluctantly asked the Prime Minister to accept his resignation from his ministerial appointment. The Prime Minister's acceptance of Mr Yeo's request, without demur, indicates his agreement with it.

Would not the Prime Minister have commanded more respect — and would not his current position be much stronger — had he, immediately on learning of Mr Yeo's behaviour, removed him from an office to which, because of his very ordinary human weakness, he was not suited? Moralising ministers, whether of the Church or State, must surely practise what they preach.

It is unrealistic to hope that Mr Major, within such time as is still available to him as Prime Minister, might bring together in his Government a team of dedicated public servants who would command the respect of those of us in the Conservative Party, those who put it in power and perhaps even of the steadily increasing number of voters who are in opposition to it?

Yours sincerely,  
LANDSDOWNE,  
Melkour House,  
Perthshire PH2 6EA,  
January 11.

From Councillor George Richey

Sir, The Yeo affair and senior Conservative ministerial reactions to it, which were in stark contrast to Conservative grassroots opinion, show all too clearly that the Prime Minister and the Government must start listening to their constituency supporters.

### School discipline

From Mr Enda Cullen

Sir, Your leader of January 5, "Lessons in behaviour", on classroom discipline, had much to commend it but ignored a major social attitude of the 1980s, the pursuit of self-interest. Many notable politicians advocated that the economy could thrive if people watched out only for themselves; indeed the pursuit of self-interest was lauded as a modern virtue.

This self-centred philosophy has been one of the most successful innovations in education's hidden curriculum. Pupils have been exposed to incessant messages on the value of individual conscience at the expense of responsibility to others in the community.

What is needed to redress this imbalance is not extra powers or responsibilities for teachers. Discipline achieved by authoritarian means is effective only when pupils are closely monitored. Coercion can result in anti-social behaviour as discipline is related to punishment rather than a commitment to doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong.

Pupils have to perceive discipline as legitimate and not capriciously imposed. They need self-discipline where they are motivated by their ability to commit themselves to a task. This requires commitment to values that can be developed only by close inter-

action with teachers. Whether the final Dearing report allows time for education to engage in this it remains to be seen.

Sincerely,  
ENDA CULLEN,  
32 Orchard Gate,  
Greenford, Middlesex,  
January 6.

From the President of the Society of Education Officers

Sir, The leading article "Classroom truce", January 6) on the Dearing report presents a polarity between "disruptive teachers" and "dithering ministers" which fails to represent either the complexity of the situation which developed last summer or its significance.

The unions clearly took action which disrupted the Government's intentions. But what was contextually critical was the general reaction of governors and parents to the situation. It is not evident that significant numbers of parents opposed the teachers' action. Nor is it clear that governing bodies pressed headteachers to force the issue.

What emerged, therefore, was a broad consensus that what was in place was unworkable and detrimental to effective teaching and learning.

For some time now parents in Scotland have played a much more

influential role in the development of educational policy and practice. Last summer was important for England because it saw the emergence of a similar involvement south of the border.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER FARMER,  
President,  
Society of Education Officers,  
20 Bedford Way, WC1,  
January 10.

From Mr B. P. Vallance

Sir, Simon Jenkins, bemoaning the death of teaching as a profession (article, January 5), uses in his argument an extremely limited definition of "profession", based solely upon personal discretion.

The fundamental element of a profession is its code of ethics, which requires a professional person to regard the welfare of his client/patient/pupil as more important than his own, within the field of his competence.

Teachers lost their claim to professional status the first time they took industrial action over pay, to the detriment of their pupils' welfare.

Yours sincerely,  
B. P. VALLANCE,  
63 Trethannas Gardens,  
Frazee-an-Beeble,  
Camborne, Cornwall,  
January 5.

From Mr Peter J. Temple

Sir, John Lewis (letter, January 6) asks for a modern equivalent of "the man on the Clapham omnibus". In view of today's fascination with both socio-economic groups and road travel, the appropriate term is surely "the C1 on the M1".

Yours faithfully,  
PETER J. TEMPLE,  
6 Beresford Drive,  
Woodford Green, Essex,  
January 7.

From Miss J. L. Mayhew

Sir, As one who travelled twice today on the Clapham omnibus, the number 88, I see no reason for any change to this description of the "person in the street".

Yours faithfully,  
JANET L. MAYHEW,  
Flat 2, 3 Fernbridge Crescent, W11,  
January 6.

From Mrs M. S. Ternstrom

Sir, The man in the DIY store?

Yours faithfully,  
MYRTLE TERNSTROM,  
Whistling Down, Sandy Lane Road,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

From Mrs Milly Bell

Sir, Undoubtedly the woman, or man, in the queue at the supermarket check-out.

Yours faithfully,  
MILLY BELL,  
Quoins, Museum Hill,  
Haslemere, Surrey.

From Mr Euan Graham

Sir, Surely... "the man (or woman) waiting for the Clapham omnibus".

Yours faithfully,  
EUAN GRAHAM,  
Hill Farm, Heddington,  
Calne, Wiltshire.

### Europe's actors cry shame on us

From the General Secretary of the International Federation of Actors and others

Sir, We write to express our dismay at the likely effects on the British theatre of the £3.2 million reduction in the Arts Council grant for 1994-95, announced in last November's Budget. Forgive us for interfering in what is, after all, a question of national policy; but such a cut has profound implications for the rest of Europe, and we find it appalling that your Government, on top of its continuing failure to fund the British film industry, shows such disrespect for English culture.

It is not as though this reduction is made from a generous allocation. Indeed, your Government's support for the arts already lags behind almost all the major European countries. Figures published in 1990 by the Policy Studies Institute showed your expenditure on the arts and museums in 1987 at £9.80 per head of population. In the same year Sweden spent £27.80, Germany £24, France £21.40 and The Netherlands £20.50. We believe that such a comparison today would reflect on Britain just as poorly.

Britain plays a central role in the world's theatre. Our members, when they can afford it, regularly come to London to see what is new and significant. They come to enjoy fine writing, imaginative directing and superb acting. Above all, they come to see the innovative. Your theatre continually plays in Europe, where it receives an enthusiastic reception.

To endanger this record for what must be a minuscule budgetary gain is surely foolhardy. We urge that this insult to Britain's creative community be removed.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL CROSBY  
(General Secretary,  
International Federation of Actors),  
ANDERS BROBERG  
(Swedish Union of Theatrical Employees),  
GERARD BROWNE  
(Irish Actors' Equity),  
H. T. FRICK  
(Swiss Actors Union),  
HANS HERDLEIN  
(Union of German Theatre Performers),  
MARIO JACQUES  
(Portuguese Show Business Workers Union),  
PETER HEINZ KERSTEN  
(Art and Media Union, Austria),  
TUURE LANKIEN  
(Finnish Actors' Union),  
TROELS MUNK  
(Danish Actors Association),  
LAURETTE MUYLAERT  
(Culture Sector, Belgian  
Sector Union, Belgium),  
RAGNILD NYGAARD  
(Norwegian Actors' Equity),  
FRANCOIS PARROT  
(French Union of Actors),  
ALESSANDRO POMBRO  
(Union of Italian Actors),  
TIMO SORU  
(Union of Finnish Dance Artists),  
EDDA THORARINSDOTTIR  
(Icelandic Actors Association),  
PIET VAN BUUL  
(Dutch Union for Artists),  
JEAN PAUL VAN DER VURST  
(Christian Union for Culture,  
Communication and Media, Belgium),  
International Federation of Actors,  
Guild House,  
Upper St Martin's Lane, WC2,  
January 5.

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Calne, Wiltshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

John 10150



# COURT CIRCULAR

**SANDRINGHAM**  
January 11: By command of The Queen, Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Professor Zeljko Bujas at 1821, Jennyway Street, London SW1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Croatia to the Court of St James's.

The Lady Elton has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
January 11: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Air Chief Commander, Women's Royal Air Force, today received Air Commodore Ruth Montague, Director of the Women's Royal Air Force.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK**  
January 11: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Reception and Dinner in aid of the American Museum in Britain at Christie's, King Street, London SW1.

## Birthdays today

Miss Kirstie Alley, actress, 39; Mr Anthony Andrews, actor, 46; Mr Ernest Marsden, former MP, 79; Miss Hazel Aronson, QC, Sheriff of London and Borders at Edinburgh, 48; Mr Michael Aspel, broadcaster, 61; Sir Charles Bell, company director, 70; Mr H.G.H. Barratt, trades unionist, 89; Lord Boardman, 75; Mr P.W. Bota, former South African president, 78; Sir James Battersby, diplomat, 74; the Hon Sir Richard Butler, former president, National Farmers' Union, 65; Miss Stella Cunliffe, statistician, 77; Mr K. Dawson, headmaster, Haberdashers' Aske's School, 57; Mr Brendan Foster, athlete, 46; Mr Joe Frazier, boxer, 50; Baroness Hamwee, 47; Baroness Hillon of Eggham, 58; Miss Anne Howells, concert and opera singer, 53; Lord Justice McCowan, 66; Mr Denis Milne, former managing director, BP Oil, 68; Mr James Mortimer, former general secretary, Labour Party, 73; Mr Des O'Connor, entertainer, 62; Sir John Rennie, former governor-general, Mauritius, 77; Sir Terence Straton, diplomat, 63; Mr Justice Swinton Thomas, 63.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend a luncheon at the London International Regatta at Earl's Court Exhibition Centre at 11.15; and, as Upper Warden of the Woolmen's Company, will attend the annual court meeting and dinner at Painters' Hall at 5.25.

Princess Margaret, as President of the Royal Ballet, will attend a performance of *Swan Lake* at the Royal Opera House at 7.20.

## Church news

**Appointments**  
The Rev Stephen Fisher, Vicar, Middlebrough, St Oswald, will be Vicar, Redcar (York).

The Rev Dr Christopher Ford, Rector, St John the Evangelist, Old Trafford; to be Rector, St John, Moston, and Area Dean of North Manchester (Manchester).

The Rev Walter Goudry, Vicar, St Batholomew, Long Benton; to be also an Honorary Canon of Newcastle Cathedral (Newcastle).

The Rev Alan Greenhouse, Rector, Twyford, W. Guist, W. Birtree and Thelwellhouse and Wood Norton; to be also Priest-in-Charge, Sibbald (North).

The Rev Harold Harland, Vicar, Folkestone St John; to be Director of Post Ordination Training Canterbury, and Vicar for the Canterbury Diocese.

## Memorial services

**Sir Peter Quennell**  
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Peter Quennell was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. The Rev David Reeves officiated, assisted by the Rev Kit Scott. Mr Timothy Jaques read the lesson, Miss Marigold Gordon Grey read from Chekhov's *The Lady with the Lap Dog*. Mrs James Chisholm, daughter, read from her father's *The Sign of the Fish* and Miss Lucy Robinson from Matthew Arnold's *Dover Beach* and Peter Quennell's *Prologue*. Mr Alexander Quennell, son, introduced Baron Vias, Mr James Lee-Milne, Sir Rensley Slivell, Mr Ben Glazebrook and Mr Algy Cluff who gave addresses. Ms Suzie Robinson, soprano, sang "Greensleeves" accompanied by Mr Bernard Barker, piano.

**Annals of the present**  
Lady Quennell (widow), Miss Emma Gibb (granddaughter), the Marquess of Queensberry, the Earl and Countess of Dudley, the Countess of Longford, Viscount Norwich, Viscountess Bangor, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, O.M., Lord James of St James, O.M., Lord Kilmarnoch, the Dowager Lady Hesketh, Lady Jessel, Lord and Lady Wendenfeld, Lady Elizabeth Cavendish, Lady Amabel Lindsay, the Hon Miles Jebb, the Hon Mrs Fionn Morgan, Copley Lady Charles, Lady Slivell, Nicholas Henderson, Sir Kingsley Amis.

Mr Hugo Vickers, Mrs Edward Moots, Mr Michael Farrer, Mrs Ruth Longman, Mr Kenneth Neame, Mrs Ben Glazebrook, Mrs Noel Blackiston, Mr Clifford Wyndham, Mr and Mrs Michael Constantini, Mr Alastair Forbes, Mr Charles Du Cane, Mr John Bowles Lyon, Mr David Metcalfe, Mr David Hicks, Mr John Fairbairn, Mr John Murray, Mrs Timothy Jaques, Mrs J.H. Heisz, Mr Francis Slivell, Mr and Mrs Robert Robinson, Mr Anthony Hobson, Mr and Mrs Thomas Dunne, Mr John Cross, Mr Michael Parkin, Mrs John Nixing.

Mr A.N. Wilson (representing the Evening Standard), Mrs Keith Kyle (LNN TV), Mrs Jacqueline Guy (representing the editor, *History Today*), Mrs Diana Baring and Mrs Caroline Belgrave (Curtis Brown Gp), Mr Michael Wyndham (chairman, White's Club) with Mr David Ward (secretary).

Aidan and Virginia Crawley  
A joint memorial service for Aidan and Virginia Crawley will be held in St Michael's Church Square on Thursday, February 10, at noon.

**Merseyside Lieutenant**  
Colonel Peter Michael Poole to be Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside.



Helen Marshman celebrates winning the Young Woman Engineer of the Year award in London yesterday. Miss Marshman, 25, from Blaenau Gwent, is the only female employee on Cable and Wireless ships and is at present working in Canada maintaining underwater cables. She took up engineering after attending a YTS course.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Jean Baptist van Helmont, chemist, Brussels, 1580; John Winthrop, Puritan and first Governor of Massachusetts, Groton, Suffolk, 1588; Laura Spallanzani, chemist, Modena, Italy, 1729; Edmund Burke, statesman, Dublin, 1729; Johann Pestalozzi, educator, Zurich, 1746; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, Florence, 1856; Sir Charles Owsen, historian, Muscatapur, India, 1860; Jack London, novelist, San Francisco, 1876; Curtastron Gregorio Ricci, mathematician, Italy, 1883; Hermann Goering, Nazi leader, Bavaria, 1893; Georges Carpentier, boxer, Calais, 1894.

**DEATHS:** Luca Giordano, painter, Naples, 1705; George Procter, explorer, Paris, 1794; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of a shorthand system, Bath, 1897; Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, 1961.

The Royal Aeronautical Society of Great Britain was founded, 1866. The London Co-op opened its first supermarket in London at Manor Park, 1948.

A Boeing 747 (Jumbo) jet landed at Heathrow airport after its maiden transatlantic flight from New York, 1970.

## Latest wills

**Captain Victor Lamb, RN** (ret.), of Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, former Dean and Director of Studies at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, left estate valued at £186,519 net.

**Mr David Morgan Williams**, of Ayr, Ayrshire, Scotland, and Virginia Crawley will be held in St Michael's Church Square on Thursday, February 10, at noon.

## School announcements

**Blundell's School**  
The Spring Term opens on Sunday, January 16, and ends on Friday, March 25. The Right Rev Colin Docker will conduct the Confirmation in the School Chapel on January 29. There will be a Careers evening run by Old Blundellians on Friday, March 4. The Lent Visitation will be Father Aidan Mayors, CR. The Russell will be run on Saturday, March 12.

**Eton College**  
Eton College opens today for the Lent Half. There are 1,263 boys in the School. A.J. Chirnside KS is Captain of the School, and M.A. Kimber OS continues as Captain of the Oppidians.

The examination for Junior Scholars will be held on February 5 and that for Sixth Form Scholarships on February 11 and 12. The Business Week Conference starts on February 14, and Long Leave will be from February 17 to 21.

There will be services of Confirmation in College Chapel, conducted by the Visitor, the Bishop of Lincoln, on March 12 and 13.

School closes on March 23.

**Friern Barnet Grammar School**  
The Spring Term at Friern Barnet Grammar School began on January 11. The entrance examination is on January 25. Study trip day is March 1; the house cross-country competition is run on March 10, and the French evening is on March 24. Term ends on March 25.

**Harrogate Ladies' College**  
The Spring Term begins today. Philip Ruckelshaus as Head Girl with Sally Watson as Deputy and Claire Ramus as Head of Day Girls. Anna Phillips, Diana Smith, Julia Smith, Ruth Child, Sophie Burgess are Games Captains and Alison Robertson is Head of Choir. Entrance tests will be on January 17. The 2001 science and technology conference is on January 27/28 and a sixth form

Open Day will take place on February 5. There will be a "boarding school" weekend for 9-11 year olds on March 5/6. The Choir will perform *Stabat Mater* in St Wilfrid's Church on March 20, and there will be four performances of *Bottom's Dream* on March 20/21/22. The lacrosse team will compete in the All England Tournament at Milton Keynes on March 1 and in the North Schools Tournament in the Wirral on March 19. Half term is from February 18-22, and term ends on March 26.

**Queen Anne's School, Caversham**  
The Spring Term begins today. There will be a concert to celebrate Queen Anne's birthday at 7.30pm on Sunday, February 6, at which Old Girls and friends of the School will be welcome. Confirmation by the Bishop of Oxford is on Sunday, February 13. On March 4, the School will host a Sixth Form Conference on law and order. The Ascension Day Commemoration Service at Westminster Abbey on May 12, at noon, will be the central event of the centenary year. Admission to the service is by ticket. Old Girls will find details of this and Old Girls' Day on May 14 in the Old Girls' Newsletter. Non-members should address enquiries about centenary events to Mrs R. Hutchinson, c/o Queen Anne's School by March 14. Other friends who wish to attend the service should apply to the Headmistress's secretary by March 14.

**The Royal School, Bath**  
The Spring Term begins today. The term ends on Tuesday, March 29, 1994. Mrs Emma McKendrick has taken up her post as Headmistress and Mrs Judy Palmer as Acting Deputy Headmistress. Diana Ewer is Head of School and Breckyn Hunt is Deputy Head. The 2001 science and technology conference will take place on Thursday, January 27, the 11- and 13-

Interview and Assessment Days will be held on Saturday, January 22 and Sunday, February 5 and 26. The House Play Competition will be held on Friday, February 25. The Mid-Somerset Festival Concert will be held on Tuesday, March 29 in the Memorial Hall.

**St John's School, Leatherhead**  
The Lent term begins today at St John's School, Leatherhead. At the end of this term, Commander C. H. Polley, currently Bursar of Box Hill School, will take over from Mr M.J.M. Albrow, who retires after 18 years as Bursar at St John's. The Captain of the School is Roger Lee. The Bishop of Guildford will confirm candidates on Saturday, February 5. The Bruniels Trophy will be contested on Saturday, February 26 and Jean Anouilh's *André* will be performed on March 9, 10 and 11.

**Woldingham School**  
The Spring Term begins at Woldingham School today. Monday, January 24, is the first day of the term. Term ends on March 25.

## Mander Portman Woodward - MPW

On June 25, 1994, MPW will celebrate the 21st anniversary of the college's foundation with a Birthday Ball in support of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. All former students and staff are invited. Details are available from Florida Shute on 071-835 1355.

## Guild of Water Conservators

At a meeting of the Court of Aldermen held at Guildhall, the Guild of Water Conservators was recognised as a City Company without Grant of Livery. The Master and Wardens of the Corporation are Mr R.A. Banks, Mr E.W. Flaxman and Mr W.S. Smith.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr A.R. Alder and Miss L.B. Marchant**  
The engagement is announced between Anthony, elder son of Mr and Mrs William Alder, of Edinburgh, and Lisa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Marchant, of San Felix, Spain.

**Mr T.C. Bevan and Miss S.J. Goswell**  
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Bevan, of Bucknell, Shropshire, formerly of Abberly, Worcestershire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Goswell, of Copeale, Sussex.

**Mr S.C. Bourne and Miss Z.N. Robinson**  
The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr and Mrs Derek Bourne, of Market Deeping, Peterborough, and Zee, younger daughter of the late Mr H.K. Robinson and of Mrs S. Robinson, of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

**Mr C.H.T. Hobart and Miss U.M.C. Williams**  
The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of the late Major-General P.R.C. Hobart, CB, DSO, DFC, MC, and of Mrs Hobart, and Ursula, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs E.A. Williams, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

**The Hon A.B. Howard and Miss K.E. Oldfield**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Lord Strathcona, of the Isle of Colonsay, and Lady Jane Howard, of Stockwell, London, and Katharine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Oldfield, of Uplyme, Devon.

**Mr C.J. Howe and Miss J.L.N. Wild**  
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs Colin Howe, of Little Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk, and Judi, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Wild, of Redford, Nottinghamshire.

**Mr A.M.L. Hutcheon and Miss A.V. Harrop**  
The engagement is announced between Allan, son of the late Mr and Mrs Marshall Hutcheon, of Aberdeen, and Amelia, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Harrop, of Middleton Tyas, North Yorkshire.

**Mr C. Kochberg and Miss C. Staddon**  
The engagement is announced between Cary, son of Mr M. Kochberg, of Toronto, Canada, and Mrs C. Staddon, of London, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.C. Staddon, of Moretonhampstead, Devon.

**Mr J.R. Latham and Miss C.H. Gubbins**  
The engagement is announced between John Robert, son of Mr and Mrs John Latham, of Tisbury, Wiltshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Gubbins, of Old Hunstanton, Norfolk.

**Mr J.A. Leonard and Miss A.C. Sykes**  
The engagement is announced between James, son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Peter Leonard, of Upton Lovell, Wiltshire, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Sykes, of Frinton-on-Sea, Kent.

**Mr W.M.O. Massey and Miss A.R. Akerman**  
The engagement is announced between William, son of the late Dr Michael Massey and of Mrs Ruth Massey, of Bant, Green, Worcestershire, and Anna, daughter of Dr and Mrs Frank Akerman, of Romsey, Hampshire.

**Mr J.D.D. Pardoe and Miss E.J. Lewis**  
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Bernard Pardoe, of Oneshaw, Surrey, and Elizabeth, daughter of Professor and Mrs Elmer Lewis, of Evanston, Illinois.

**Mr J.M.E. Pugh and Miss S.E. Wake**  
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr John Pugh, of Farnhill Heath, Worcestershire, and Mrs Paul Sanderson, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Susie, daughter of the late Mr Peter Wake and of Mrs Peter Wake, of Hambleton, Hampshire.

**Mr A.J. Rivers and Miss C.A. Stark**  
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs A.E. Rivers, of Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.M. Stark, of Kennington, Oxford.

**Mr R.N. Scama and Miss M. Marks**  
The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Mrs Bryan Simons and the late Mr Maurice Scama, and Michelle, daughter of Mrs Helen Marks and Mr Ella Terry, and stepdaughter of Mr Leonard Marks.

**Mr A.J.G. Thorbeck and Miss A.C. Hensley**  
The engagement is announced between Alexander, elder son of Mr and Mrs Erik Thorbeck, of Maifield, Kent, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Hindley, of Rolvenden, Kent.

**Mr R.D. Vorisek, Jr. and Miss S.H.H. Jones**  
The engagement is announced between Richard D. Vorisek, of Morrisville, New Jersey, and Judith Davis Wheatley, of San Francisco, California, and Jennifer, only daughter of John Philip Jones and Wendy Holby Jones, of 122 Edgell Road, Syracuse, NY 13224, formerly of London. The wedding will take place in Manhattan in the autumn.

**Mr J.S. Walker and Miss H.J. Wilkin**  
The engagement is announced between James Stewart, fourth son of Mr and Mrs D.H. Walker, of Plettenberg Bay, South Africa, and Helen Jessica, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W.A. Wilkin, of Burton-in-Kendal, Cumbria.

**Mr M. van Zyl Steyn and Miss A.J. Footitt**  
The engagement is announced between Martin van Zyl Steyn, elder son of the Right Hon Lord Justice Steyn, of Swinfield, Norfolk, and Alison Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham Footitt, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

## Marriages

**The Hon James Mackay and Miss A.M. Barrett**  
The marriage took place on Thursday, December 30, 1993, in the Seychelles, of James, son of Lord Tansley, of Brompton Square, London, and Mrs Edmund Capon, of Bellevue Hill, Sydney, and Anne-Marie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Barrett, of Midsomer Norton, Somerset.

**Captain R. Ferguson-Cunningham and Mrs R.A. Stittley**  
The marriage has taken place between Captain Robert Ferguson-Cunningham and Mrs Rose-Ann Stittley.

TRADE: 071 481 1982  
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313  
FAX: 071 782 7828

### DEATHS

**ALDRIDGE** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Michael Aldridge, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**ANDERSON** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Anderson, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**BAKER** - Ernest George Baker, 85, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**BARNES** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Barnes, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**BENNETT** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Bennett, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**BIRCH** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Birch, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**BLOOM** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Bloom, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**BROWN** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Brown, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**BURTON** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Burton, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CAMPBELL** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Campbell, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CARR** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Carr, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CARTER** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Carter, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CHAMBERLAIN** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Chamberlain, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CHAPMAN** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Chapman, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CLARK** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Clark, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CLAYTON** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Clayton, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**COLE** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Cole, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**COLEMAN** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Coleman, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**COOPER** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Cooper, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CORRIE** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Corrie, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**COTTELL** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Cottell, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**COWLEY** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Cowley, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CRAWLEY** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Crawley, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CROFT** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Croft, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CROWE** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Crowe, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CULPIN** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Culpin, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CURRIE** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Currie, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**CUTLER** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Cutler, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**DALRYMPLE** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Dalrymple, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**DALY** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Daly, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**DANIELS** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Daniels, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**DARBY** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Darby, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**DARBYSHIRE** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Darbyshire, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**DARVILL** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Darvill, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**DARVILL** - On Monday 10th January 1994, Mrs. Margaret Darvill, 70, of 10, The Grange, Aldridge, died. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Peter's Church, Aldridge, or to the British Red Cross, 10, The Grange, Aldridge, on Tuesday 11th January 1994, at 11.00 am. (0945) 62700.

**DARVILL**



## OBITUARIES

## JOHN SCHLESINGER

John S. Schlesinger, South African businessman, died in New York on December 14 aged 70. He was born on March 29, 1923.

IT CAME as something of a shock to Johannesburg's financial community to learn, in 1969, that the gold and diamond entrepreneur Harry Oppenheimer was no longer the richest man in South Africa. The highly embarrassed usurer to that title was John Schlesinger, the son of an American immigrant. In Britain Schlesinger was so little known as a businessman that he was more than once lionised in mistake for his namesake, the film director. Yet through a network of 250 private and public companies, headed by the discreet Schlesinger Organisation, he presided over the largest privately controlled group in South Africa, with combined assets reputed to be worth around £300 million.

An only child and a godson of Jan Smuts, John Samuel Schlesinger was educated at Michaelhouse, Natal, and Harvard. Towards the end of the war, he was a bombardier in the US Army Air Force, but afterwards returned to South Africa and became a South African citizen.

At the age of 26 Schlesinger found himself the successor to the family's huge commercial empire worth an estimated £50 million. The founder was his father, Isidore Schlesinger, who had arrived in Johannesburg from the Bowery in 1894 and made his mark by selling Beemans Pepsin chewing gum to Voortrekkers. By the end of the Boer War, he was covering the newly affluent gold miners with life



assurance through what became his most vital company, African Life Assurance.

At various times he founded the South African film industry, opened its first cinema chain and radio station, and moved into banking, orange-growing, advertising, property, hotels, catering, newspapers — all the second generation enterprises that grew on the back of South Africa's gold and diamond mining heart. By the time he died in 1994, he was finding it increasingly difficult to keep all the balls in the air at once.

His son John Schlesinger spent the next decade sorting out the mess, selling off large blocks of unconnected business and switching from one-man rule to establishing a professional management. One of his showier investments came in 1953, when he bought up the 50 per cent interest — then held by the American company, United Artists — in Odeon Cinema Holdings, the company which controlled J. Arthur Rank's Odeon Theatres.

The Odeon Theatres group owned, or controlled through its subsidiaries, 554 cinemas as well as producing and distributing films. Hence Schlesinger's investment meant a big swing away from American control of cinemas and film presentation in the Commonwealth. He made the deal, not as a financier, but as a showman, and milked the attendant publicity to sell investment in South Africa to British and American businessmen.

Despite these measures, the Schlesinger group had, by the late 1950s, gained a reputation for conservatism. It was at this point that John Schlesinger recruited a bright young entrepreneur with a Harvard background, David Maffress "Mandy" Moross, as chief executive to restart the rusting Schlesinger machine.

Moross was lucky in his timing. There was plenty of cash from the disposals, including one package deal that sold all cinema and film interests to 20th Century Fox for £10 million. Moross concentrated on driving the business hard in banking, property and insurance, and at first looked as if he was making a great success of things. Schlesinger still controlled 60

per cent of the organisation but the rest was divided between Moross, two other Schlesingers and an organisation man in London, Aubrey Harnell, each holding a 10 per cent stake.

In retrospect, Schlesinger placed too much confidence in others. Where once, he claimed, he spent 12 hours a day at his desk, he now handed over the reins almost completely to his lieutenants. He spent increasing amounts of time in Europe. In the 1960s, touring the Mediterranean for three months of every year on his yacht, and became a fixture on the international jet circuit and a daredevil enthusiast of the Cresta Run. Having divorced his first wife, he married a glamorous Italian roller-skating champion in 1966. He planned, he said, to have a honeymoon for the next 25 years.

By the time the couple divorced, expensively for Schlesinger, in 1981, there was little left of the family empire. In the mid-1970s, it was broken up under Moross's supervision and its constituent parts sold off. The biggest part of the sale came in 1974, when Schlesinger Insurance and Institutional Holdings, Schlesinger's key holding company, was sold to Rand Selection Corporation, owned by Oppenheimer's Anglo American Corporation, at a vastly inflated price.

Schlesinger sold his home in Johannesburg, the enormous Summer Place, and spent the rest of his life quietly and happily in France, England and America, with his third wife Elizabeth, whom he married in 1981.

She survives him, together with a son and a daughter from his first marriage.

## MICHAEL ALDRIDGE

Michael Aldridge, stage and screen actor, died in London on January 10 aged 73. He was born in Glastonbury, Somerset, on September 9, 1920.



THE career of Michael Aldridge had its genesis in the copper-bottomed classical stage, where he played Shakespeare, comedy of manners, Greek tragedy, Brecht, T. S. Eliot and Chekhov with equal aplomb and conviction. But, like so many actors of his generation who also took to the small screen, he is faded, rather, to be remembered as a familiar face in popular television series.

Luckily, many of these were of the highest class and provided him with an outlet for his many-sided gifts. Thus, he was able to bring to series as disparate as *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* and *Last of the Summer Wine* the sort of qualities that had served him well in the classics. If Aldridge joined the cast of a show it invariably meant the injection of an extra dimension of dramatic (which might well be comic) interest, however modest his role in it. In everything he did, if never a "big" name, he was a professional to his fingertips.

The son of a Somerset doctor, Michael William Aldridge was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, where he made his first — not terribly propitious — steps on the stage. Determined on his chosen career, he bagged a part in every show the school's dramatic society put on. Since Ben Travers was one of the school governors, Aldridge buttonholed him after one such performance and demanded to know whether a stage career was a good choice. Travers, having just witnessed the 16-year-old Aldridge play Sir Toby Belch, unconvincedly swathed in overwhelming amounts of body padding, gave a less than fulsome recommendation to the young aspirant.

Nevertheless Aldridge joined

rep right after school, making his debut at the Palace Theatre, Watford, in August 1939 in Rattigan's *French Without Tears*. Then came the war in which he served as an RAF air gunner, observer and navigator in South and East Africa, the US, the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

Demobilised in 1946, he headed back to rep where he built the foundations of a solid career. Then, in 1950 for the Old Vic, he played in Shakespeare, Goldsmith and Molière and underpinned this with a convincing season, including many lead classic roles, at the Bristol Old Vic in 1951-52.

As time went on he was rarely out of the West End except by choice — seasons at Stratford and appearances at the Chichester festival to which he was devoted. In a different mode he appeared in the original cast of Alan

Aykoburn's comedy *Absurd Person Singular*.

Among his many television roles was one of his own favourites as the crumbling wastrel Rollo Aspen in ITV's *H. E. Bates serial Love for Lydia* which ran in 1977. Another gem was his performance as Seymour Unterhwaite the retired headmaster of a somewhat dubious small private school in BBC TV's long-running series *Last of the Summer Wine*.

Away from his work Aldridge enjoyed sailing his 25-ft sloop *Hebe* out of Chichester, where he lived for some years before moving to Greenwich. He was also a keen market gardener, enjoying the physical, but different, challenges involved in working the soil and combating wind and tide. He married, in 1947, Kirsten Rowntree. She and their three daughters survive him.

## SIR DENNIS PILCHER

Sir Dennis Pilcher, CBE, chairman of the Commission for New Towns, 1971-78, and a former president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors died on January 5 aged 87. He was born on July 2, 1906.

DENNIS PILCHER was the possessor of an extraordinarily brilliant mind. His may have been an untutored intelligence but it was still a singularly bright one. When he sat on the Milner Holland Committee — set up in 1963 in the wake of the Ruckman property scandal — his questions easily outshone those of any learned counsel. He impressed more than one of his colleagues as being far and away the ablest member of the whole committee.

Yet he came from no distinguished academic background. Charles Dennis Pilcher was educated at Claysmore School, Windsor, and Portsmouth Grammar School — where he entered for an exam and never passed one. There was no question of his going to a university and at the age of 16 he was articled to a firm of auctioneers and estate agents in Brighton. Six years later he qualified — becoming a chartered surveyor, an estate agent and an auctioneer at one fell swoop.

He remained with the firm he had originally joined — which eventually incorporated his own name — for over fifty years, retiring from it only in 1973. The sole interruption was his war service, which he spent with the Royal Artillery reaching the rank of major and being mentioned in dispatches for his part commanding a battery of guns in Normandy in 1944.

Pilcher's civilian fame was based on what he did for his profession nationally rather than locally. At an early stage he caught the attention of those in Whitehall — mainly civil servants like Evelyn Sharp — who were determined to make a success out of the post-war policy of New Towns. Pilcher was appointed to the board of one of the earliest ones at Hemel Hempstead and later became first a member, then deputy chairman and finally chairman of the Bracknell Development Corporation. The year he left the Bracknell chairmanship he was made chairman of the Commission for New Towns — a post he owed to the Heath Government.

Although his own political inclinations were always to the right, Pilcher's services to the State were essentially non-party. He also took part in voluntary work, serving as a governor of King's College Hospital as well as being a

member of the Building Committee of the Metropolitan Hospitals Board in Brighton. He sat on the local bench as a JP, being on the panel of the juvenile court.

He had been enrolled early on in the national army of the great and the good. He was vice-president of the London Rent Assessment Board, 1960-70, adviser to the Business Rents Directorate of the Department of the Environment, 1973-77, and in 1975 headed a group of advisers to Anthony Crosland on the development of commercial property. He was appointed CBE in 1968 and knighted in 1974.

Outside his profession, Pilcher's great interest was in music and opera. He was chairman of the Brighton Philharmonic Society, a regular attendee at Glyndebourne and a member of the music panel of the Arts Council for three years. This side of his life brought him into contact with many who knew little of his eminence in his profession.

That was reflected in his long association with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which started in 1947 with his appointment as secretary of the Sussex branch. He was a member of the RICS council, 1955-73, and served as the institution's president, 1963-64.

His wife Mary predeceased him. He leaves two daughters.

## PHOUMI VONGVICHIT



Phoumi Vongvichit, former Lao revolutionary leader, government minister and acting president, 1986-91, died on January 7 aged 84. He was born on April 6, 1909.

HAVING been a leading figure in the Pathet Lao independence movement, in its military struggle against, first the French, then the Americans and finally the Lao monarchy, Phoumi Vongvichit went on to become a cabinet minister, deputy prime minister and eventually deputy president. As such he helped institute a doctrine, communist regime, complete with re-education camps for 40,000 officials of the previous

royalist administration and its supporters. In 1961, as the right-hand man of the Pathet Lao's leader, Prince Souphanouvong, Phoumi led the Lao delegation to negotiations that a year later produced the 14-nation Geneva Accords that were supposed to end the Laotian civil war. And when — 13 years later — the Pathet Lao was included in a coalition government in Vientiane, he was its senior figure becoming deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Phoumi Vongvichit was born into an upper class family and educated in the Vietnamese city of Hanoi before studying law in Paris. Back in Laos he joined the Lao Issara revolutionary movement, which campaigned against French colonial rule. In the early 1950s the Lao Issara split in two following the peace settlement with France, and Phoumi was among those who joined the more extreme Communist faction, the Pathet Lao, led by Prince Souphanouvong, the half-brother of Prince Souvanna Phouma who had reached a compromise with Paris. Phoumi became the secretary-general of the Pathet Lao's political extension, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

A year later when Laos's first government of national union was formed, he was appointed minister of religion and fine arts.

In 1975, after the Pathet Lao, renamed the Lao People's Front, seized power, ousting the royalists, Phoumi became minister of education, sports, physical education and fine arts. Promoting a harsh Stalinist ideological line, he sought, as education minister, to equate socialism with Buddhism, forcing monks to preach the party line in their sermons, on pain of being sent to "re-education" camps.

Phoumi also became deputy prime minister, a full member of the ruling Politburo and the party Central Committee, and second in power only to the premier and party leader, Kaysone Phomvihane. Phoumi later relinquished the education portfolio to take broad responsibility for social and cultural affairs.

He became acting president in 1986, when Prince Souphanouvong vacated the largely ceremonial job because of health problems. Phoumi served until 1991 when his own ill-health forced his resignation.

## PROFESSOR ALAN DAVISON

Alan Davison, Professor of Neurochemistry, Institute of Neurology, University of London, 1971-90, died at home in Suffolk on December 21 aged 68, after a long illness. He was born on June 6, 1925, in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

ALAN DAVISON was a creative and innovative scientist best known for his pioneering work in the fields of neurochemistry and neuroimmunology. An acknowledged leader in his field, he placed particular emphasis on research strategies which were likely to have therapeutic implications for the treatment of distressing conditions such as multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's disease.

Davison's academic career began when his employers, Potter and Clark, recognising his ability, encouraged him to take a degree. He gained a pharmacy degree from Nottingham University before taking a degree in chemistry at London University. For his PhD degree he studied the mechanism of action of organophosphorus compounds upon cholinesterases in the nervous system as a staff member of the MRC Toxicology Laboratories at Carshalton, Surrey. The first of many honours was the award of an MRC Anglo-French Exchange fellowship at the Sorbonne, during which time he made original contributions to the discipline of Neurotoxicology and gained a love of the French language.

In 1957 Davison first joined the Pathology Department then moved to the Department of Biochemistry at Guy's Hospital Medical School, London. He subsequently published a series of classical papers con-

cerning myelin lipid and protein metabolism. He was meetings secretary and then secretary of the Biochemical Society, 1968-73, during an important time in the development of academic biochemistry.

After serving as professor and chairman of the Biochemistry Department at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, 1965-1971, he was appointed chairman of the first neurochemistry department in the UK at the Institute of Neurology, 1971-90. Dr Reginald Kelly, dean of the Institute at that time, and Professor

the Institute of Neurology, as he developed and encouraged lines of research that eventually encompassed internationally recognised groups in many fields.

Davison was a complex personality. He concealed under a diffident exterior a powerful brain, driven by a vocation to bring healing and peace of mind to those in need. His preferred style was to leave his colleagues and co-workers to follow their own lines of research but he was always excited by and supportive of their new ideas. His belief in the goodness of human nature could be exasperating as well as refreshing.

As chairman of the medical research advisory committee of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain, he brought his balanced judgement and generous spirit to bear on the direction of research into this disabling neurological disease. He became a fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in 1976 and was jointly awarded the Dhole-Eddleston Prize in 1980 for the most deserving published work of medical research on the needs of aged people. In 1990, through his association with the Pevsner company, Davison was made a freeman of the City of London.

Davison was very much a family man and warmth and compassion marked all his personal relationships. His Christian faith profoundly affected the way he lived and died. It was the support of his family and his faith that enabled him to bear philosophically and with great dignity the last 18 months of his life, following the diagnosis of a brain tumour.

He is survived by his wife Patricia, two daughters and a son.



Roger Gillian, head of the Department of Clinical Neurology, had the foresight to realise the importance of establishing a strong base for neuroscience research. It was at the institute that he served as a chief editor of the *Journal of Neurochemistry*, 1970-75. He jointly edited several books on the neurobiology of brain function in health and disease and also served on the editorial boards of a number of journals. Under Davison's leadership, neurochemistry became a major department at

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The next time you fancy an Italian meal, that is, the chances are that the name Buitoni will not be on your lips. However, if Nestlé, the world's biggest food company, has its way, in a couple of years' time that may have changed.

Starting this year in Britain, Nestlé is embarking on an ambitious experiment that could change the face of food marketing.

Since it acquired the Buitoni pasta brand from its Italian family owners in 1988, Nestlé has faced a dilemma. It knows that the brand represents a big opportunity: consumers around the world want fresh experiences in food and Italian is "in". But in markets such as the United Kingdom, the company is on the outside looking in.

Pasta consumption may be growing at 11 per cent a year, but a small brand such as Buitoni cannot afford the heavy-duty television advertising which creates classic mega-brands: consumers see all dried pastas as the same and therefore show little brand loyalty; pressure on retail shop space is intense; own-label pastas dominate the market with a 60 per cent share.

What is more, while about 65 per cent of UK consumers will indulge in the odd "Spag Bol" or a "Britalian" dish such as pasta with Ragù (made by Unilever) or Dolmio (Mars) sauce, anything beyond that gets intimidating.

Duncan MacCallum, Buitoni's marketing manager for the UK, says: "Consumers go to the supermarket and see an increasing number of different shapes with odd, obscure Italian names and they don't know what to do with them."

Nestlé's solution is to reach beyond mere pasta. It has formed a club for pastaphiles. For the past two years, the company has taken every opportunity to capture the names and addresses of people who buy Buitoni pasta, and, just before Christmas, it sent out 200,000 invitations to "share the Italian

Alan Mitchell on a small brand's fresh recipe for building global consumer loyalty

## Invitation to the pasta club



Buitoni's club for pastaphiles is the next "big thing" for marketers. Tony Franco, right, senior brand manager, at Casa Buitoni, the Tuscan headquarters of the global brand-to-be

love of food" by joining the Casa Buitoni Club.

Club members get a quarterly magazine about Italian food, culture and lifestyle; recipe and menu ideas; a chance to overcome culinary doubts and fears, including a special "care line" to answer club members' telephone queries about food; wine and menus (or even "what Italian middle name to give my daughter"), plus special offers and competitions.

The current magazine, for example, includes a competition to win a

cooking holiday at the "Casa Buitoni", the family villa in Tuscany bought by Nestlé to become a research and development and public relations headquarters of the global brand-to-be.

Nestlé believes that it will win a lot more. So far as it is concerned, the club is a potential gold mine. Its membership can be analysed to create a profile of aspiring Italian cooks, including the media they are most likely to use. It can be used to lock into supermarkets' "micro-marketing" exercises (store-specific

promotions will get added value if Nestlé can tell local club members where the special offers are). Marketing initiatives to club members can pre-empt competitive forays.

The club's volunteer consumer panel can be used to test new products and, of course, the club is fertile ground for the brand because it extends beyond dried pasta into fresh pastas, chilled and frozen recipes, pizzas, sauces, cheeses, olive oils and vinegars.

More importantly, by building intense consumer loyalty, Nestlé

hopes to tap into the most powerful marketing medium of all: word of mouth. So far, one in three members has recommended membership to a friend.

If the Casa Buitoni Club takes off, it could mark the beginning of a shift in conventional food marketing. Under the traditional model, marketers research an anonymous "market" and create a product to meet its needs and desires. They then lure the target market to purchase through intensive television and press advertising.

Under the new model, marketers spend time and money getting to know the names and addresses of their customers. Brand advertising remains, but the focus of marketing activity moves to relationship building. While traditional direct marketing uses a data-base simply to send out marketing messages more efficiently, the whole idea of the club is to create long-term two-way communication.

"We have a total communication strategy where everything we do is about building a one-to-one relationship with consumers," Mr MacCallum says.

For example, a computer record of each "care line" conversation means that the telephone operator can ask Mrs Smith how her dinner party went because last week's query about a menu automatically appears on a computer screen in front of her. A delighted Mrs Smith will now be so loyal other marketers cannot touch her. And Nestlé's close relationship with thousands like her acts as a perfect foil to supermarket claims that they know consumers better than the manufacturer does.

But the Casa Buitoni Club is also a big risk. Current membership of 35,000 is small beer for a mass market, although it is early days and Mr MacCallum says this represents a good proportion of "heavy" Buitoni users.

The idea is to increase the membership to a much higher number. However, the costs of doing so are high. Mr MacCallum estimates club members will have to buy Buitoni for four years before he starts getting a return on his investment. But, he says: "Once we have hooked a consumer into the club, they become a Buitoni purchaser for their lifetime. That gives you the payback."

Clubs could be the next big thing in food marketing. Already, says David Hudson, Nestlé UK director of marketing, Nestlé subsidiaries in Japan and Holland are setting up their own Buitoni clubs. And it will not stop at pasta. Any marketer with enough ambition (and money) could enter the fray to "own" Spanish or Indian cooking.

Indeed, the club concept can be extended to almost anything, Mr Hudson says, so long as it can "sustain the longevity of this sort of activity" — say pet food, diet food or children's food. "We will get a lot of benefit over the next two or three years before other people join the bandwagon," he says.

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# All the knives come out for Major

The national press, for once, is united: John Major was fiddling while 'back to basics' burnt

Is the press out to get John Major? Until last week this question, often answered with an unequivocal "yes" by Tory MPs, had been relatively easy for editors to laugh off.

The press, they would argue, is not a single beast but a collection of different newspapers with separate agendas and a tendency to disagree. Their opposition was to the Prime Minister's policies — over Maastricht, the ERM, the closure of coal mines — not to him as an individual.

Those controversies prompted innuendoes in editorials about his leadership abilities, and similar concerns were aired after the delayed resignations of the Heritage Minister, David Mellor, and the Chancellor, Norman Lamont.

With the passing of time, and the success of Mr Major's "back-to-basics" speech in Blackpool last October, it did seem as though his relationship with the press had been healed. But questions about his abilities, have always hung in the wind, waiting for a breeze.

In fact, there has been a gale, with three ministers being forced to resign in a week, amid sexual, financial and finally tragic circumstances. Now the gloves are off.

All newspapers have criticised not Mr Major's policies but his leadership, his character, his political nous. From broadsheets to tabloids, from the Labour-supporting *Daily Mirror* to the true-blue *Sunday Express*, there has never been such unanimity of thought and argument.

This country desperately needs leadership," said *The Sun*. "Will he never learn?" asked the *Daily Mail*, referring to the "abysmal failure of the Prime Minister to react with convincing authority... as he shilly-shallies between giving a moral lead and taking

evasive action." *The Sunday Times* was withering and its editor, Andrew Neil was unequivocal on BBC's *Newsnight*: "This is a government out of control... Major is out of touch with the public's sympathy." *The Sunday Telegraph* was contemptuous. The Prime Minister has "shown himself incapable" of making decisions.

Over at the *Daily Express*, where the reflex has long been to support Mr Major and where Tory loyalty has run counter to the trend, the worm appears to have turned. The affair "has been handled lamentably" by John Major," said the



The Mail: "Will he never learn?"

*Express* editorial, adding: "Mr Major let things drift so badly that events dictated their own course." Its Sunday stablemate chose the strongest of language to criticise

Alan Duncan, who resigned as a parliamentary private secretary after the disclosure of his car-purchase of a neighbour's council house. He was, said the *Sunday Express*, "a spiv... a pipsqueak on the make" including in "a piece of breathtaking cynicism" to "besmirch the ethos of a policy designed to give ordinary council tenants a place on the property ladder".

That view, echoing others in *Mirror* Group titles, showed how eager newspapers were not to part company with their readership. All editors have been aware that the opposition to Tim Yeo

stemmed from his own constituency party activists, and that public views of morality have been far more strict than the Government might have expected.

Mr Major might have expected some support from the maverick commentators. So far it has been the reverse. Paul Johnson, in both *The Spectator* and the *Daily Mail*, has shown his displeasure. Joe Rogaly, in the *Financial Times*, claimed that the Prime Minister of "a morally corrupt government" is held in "persistent contempt".

So what has been the Government's response? Some ministers and MPs have suggested newspapers have made too much of Mr Yeo's fathering of an illegitimate child. Others have pointed out that Mr Duncan did not break the law.

But desperation has led to dirty tricks. False rumours have been spread about editors being "responsible" for the death of Lady Caithness. At least two newspapers have been accused of sending reporters to her home the night she died.

Jonathan Holborow, editor of the *Mail on Sunday*, denied the charge furiously: "We made absolutely no enquiries. I am deeply concerned that such rumours should emanate from senior political sources. This smacks of government machinery being used to blame the press for what we all agree was a tragic incident."

Both Holborow and Kelvin Mackenzie, editor of *The Sun*, are known to have obtained assurances from the Chief Whip, Richard Ryder, that his office had not retained the rumours.

All of which suggests that the relationship between newspapers and government is now at its lowest ebb.

ROY GREENSLADE

## Curse of the little boxes

As a purveyor of values — family or otherwise — television has been labelled so decadent an influence by this Government that it is surprising that ministerial misbehaviour has not been blamed on *To Play The King*. (Since its run has just ended, perhaps we must wait nine months for the results.)

But there is a serious way in which television and videos do contribute to our sense of morality and community — or detract from it. Rather than any particular video, such as *Child's Play 3*, being responsible for specific bad behaviour, it is the quantity and quality of children's play itself that has been damaged by the use of television and video to replace personal attention of parents to their children, and to each other.

The degree to which children of all ages are content to watch a video instead of having more active contact with friends and family is a far more serious indication of the collapse of community values than whatever happens to be on the screen at the time. Video games at least promote manual dexterity, but I find their primitive narratives based on "heroes" pulverising grotesques as loathsome and racist as violent videos.

Not surprisingly, research into playground behaviour has revealed the erosion of traditional songs and games. John Patten's more highbrow definition of culture notwithstanding, such a loss damages notions of Britishness as surely as the closure of a theatre that used to perform Shakespeare.

Since adults as well now spend so much time viewing instead of talking and interacting, any hope of reviving a sense of community must inexorably be affected by the cultural and moral values of the programmes and films themselves.

These in turn are profoundly affected by the moral and cultural climate of the industry — directly

Television and video are killing communities, says Roger Graef (below)



influenced by government policy over the past decade. The ruthless treatment of the BBC in the Eighties, then ITV companies and their employees, and now independent programme-makers in the Nineties has created a climate which has indeed gone back to basics: survival of the fittest. In many quarters, concern for moral and cultural issues has become far less important than cutting budgets and increasing profits and ratings.

All is not lost. On the whole, the people now in key positions to influence programme-making directly are steeped in the traditional values of British television at its best. Channel 4 has managed the feat of selling its own airtime, increasing its market share and sustaining its remit. Bloodletting at the BBC has won a three-year truce before facing charter renewal and renewed pressures for still more commercialisation. Armed with a

commitment to diversity and excellence, in areas like drama it has a new richness of producing talent that bodes well. As ITV takeovers begin in earnest, international media giants perch like vultures waiting to swoop. With the Government more committed to deregulation than to protecting the best of British culture, it remains to be seen how long they hold back what in other countries has proved to be an inevitable tide of cheaper output from abroad.

Satellite and cable are predicted to reach 50 per cent of British homes by the year 2000 — only six years away. This past year, BSkyB broke even, and as it moves into operating profit, not before time it has promised to commission more UK programming, including a much-needed contribution to support what is left of British cinema.

Having saved the audio-visual sector from CATT, the Government should use the money from the national lottery to follow the French example and back home-grown films and cinemas — especially in smaller towns and cities, whose centres turn into no-go areas for anyone but restless youth after dark. This would reduce crime and sustain both popular British culture and the endangered communities about whom it expresses concern.

Without cinemas, people stay at home to watch the box. But apart from American films and re-runs of TV series, the staple diet of cable channels proliferating all over the world — as well as terrestrial daytime television — is mindless game and chat shows, which parody the intimacy and gaiety missing from so many homes. The personal revelations in the best of them, such as *Oprah Winfrey* and *Kluge*, are a pathetic commentary on our lack of safe and appropriate private shoulders to cry on.

Now we have home shopping by cable and telephone. Presented as



Guilty or innocent? Clockwise from top, *Coronation Street*, *Child's Play 3* and *To Play The King*

an improvement to the quality of our lives, it is even more destructive of communarian values than the spread of giant supermarkets that have destroyed so many high streets, also in the name of convenience.

Ironically, the American shoppers who call to order by phone what they have seen on the screen indulge in chatter with the "host" that smacks of the loneliness of the late-night phone-ins on radio —

themselves a poor substitute for the personal exchanges that once happened face to face over the counter or the garden fence.

Despite its enormous popularity among all ages, watching *Neighbours* is no substitute for having them — trusted friends who keep an eye on your children, when they are very young, and as they mature. Extended families in Britain included people down the road, who were not frightened to act in

*loco parentis* if a friend's youngster was seen up to no good. Now they shut the door, or call the police.

But the streets on which such neighbourliness grew cannot be reconstructed by politicians wishing for them, or by watching *Coronation Street*, whose enduring popularity suggests a national ache for civility and contact. To that extent Mr Major is right.

But his Government has sacrificed the very stability and continu-

ity that were cornerstones of such communities on the altar of the market. This return to basic economic reductionism values nothing but the bottom line. It is justified as increasing customer choice: that is its morality. But Street watchers would not recognise it as a market, where consumers are also human beings, who chat as well as buy, and meet friends, and enjoy being part of something larger than the immediate transaction.

Now they are offered reasons to stay at home: the closure of pits and corner shops leave still more thousands of able-bodied men and women feeling hopeless. But while youth clubs, arts centres, playing fields and brass bands die from a thousand cuts, they are free to enjoy the "benefits" of home shopping. And soon, if BT has its way, an infinite supply of (violent) American-made videos can be ordered and sent by telephone. In Rome, citizens were offered bread and circuses to keep quiet. And the Dark Ages followed. Back to basics, indeed.

● Roger Graef is an experienced producer of television documentaries.

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# THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 12 1994



Elizabeth Haywood, aged 38, has been appointed as the next director of CBI Wales. Dr Haywood is currently European affairs manager at the Welsh Development Agency. Dr Haywood said her aim at the CBI would be to ensure a strong identity for Welsh business and industry

## Outcry over 'bloated' tax Bill

BY JONATHAN PRYNN  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE publication of the longest ever Finance Bill has provoked a storm of protest from accountants who warned that Britain's tax system is in danger of becoming unworkable.

Senior figures from almost all the major accounting firms lined up to condemn the "bloated" 417 page, 23 schedule document, published for the first time in two volumes.

Mike Golden, the senior London tax partner at Price Waterhouse, said the sheer bulk of the Bill dangerously increased the chance of drafting errors surviving all the stages of legislative scrutiny. "It could be very messy, even with a fair wind," he said.

Maurice Parry-Wingfield, a tax partner at Touche Ross, said the Government had become too obsessed with closing off any possibility of tax avoidance, making the Bill too detailed and prescriptive. The proposals on international companies and foreign income dividends alone run to 28 pages of small print.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants has already written to the Chancellor protesting at the "onerous" provisions on tax self-assessment for the self-employed.

Andrew Jones, head of tax at Ernst & Young, called for a total rethink of the system of parliamentary scrutiny of future Finance Bills.

Pennington, page 25

## NatWest to axe 4,000 jobs today

BY PATRICIA TEHAN  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster Bank is to axe 4,200 jobs this year as part of a continued drive to cut costs and centralise back office procedures.

Today's announcement will deepen the gloom in the financial services industry. On Monday, Barclays said it had increased its target for job cuts from 18,000 to 21,000 over the five years to the end of 1995. The news prompted warnings of industrial action by the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (Bifin).

News from the NatWest will also coincide with the latest unemployment figures from the Government. Ministers are hopeful that the total for December will continue the downward trend in the number of people out of work. In November, the official jobless total dropped 36,100 to 2,815,900, the eighth monthly fall last year.

Most of the NatWest jobs will be lost at branches, though some redundancies are likely among head office and operations staff. Increasing use of technology and cost pressures are likely to be blamed by the bank.

The job cuts come after 4,000 redundancies at the bank in 1993 and 5,500 in 1992. Last year, Stuart Chandler, NatWest's general manager for human resources, warned staff that the job reduction programme would continue for some years.

Yesterday, a spokesman for NatWest refused to comment on the redundancies announcement. He said: "If we have an announcement to make we will make it to our staff first."

This year, NatWest is understood to have refused to reassure staff that the cuts will be made on a voluntary basis or by not replacing staff who leave or retire. Last year, the bank said it planned only a minimal number of compulsory redundancies because the cuts would be spread across a wide number of grades. Of the previous year's 5,500 job cuts, 1,500 were compulsory. NatWest employed 108,000 staff at the end of 1990, but staffing levels had fallen to 92,600 by the middle of last year. The job cuts are unlikely to lead directly to a growth in NatWest's branch closure programme. NatWest has 2,500 branches nationwide, but it has been steadily reducing its network by between 130 and 140 a year.

Increasing automation is dispensing with bank staff. NatWest is set to add to the gloom among bank workers with the loss of 4,200 jobs to be announced today

Another financial services institution, thought to be an insurance company, is due to announce job cuts this week. Although the numbers will not be as great as the banks', the company will be making compulsory redundancies.

Bifin said 100,000 jobs have been lost from the finance industry in the past four years, while 2,000 high street branches and 1,000 building society branches have closed over the past five years.

Barclays has since 1991 shed 16,000 jobs, leaving 68,500 staff, and is planning 505 compulsory redundancies from branches in London and the South East next month. That leaves 4,500 to go.

Midland Bank shed 4,000 jobs between June 1991 and December 1992. A spokesman said the network of 45,000 UK staff "is now the right size and no further reductions are planned". Lloyds Bank, which had shed 12,599 jobs to leave 44,777 staff in the UK by the middle of last year, said it expected jobs "to continue to decline, but at a slower rate".

Robert Miller, Cafod's assistant director, said the fraud almost convinced them. "They are obviously very skilled. If they are targeting charities, they will do them all at once, so we want the word to get round." He said Cafod's work in Nigeria would not be damaged.

The charity asked for an extension over Christmas. When its staff returned, they realised there were grounds for suspicion. A member of staff in the accounts department noticed that the cheque had a bogus sorting code, which actually belonged to a branch of Lloyds Bank in Oxford Street. When Cafod talked to its own bank, it was warned about the wave of Nigerian fraud. Mr Mba has not been heard of since. Cafod has since handed over some of its documents to Scotland Yard, which is investigating more than 100 frauds involving small companies. Cafod has also contacted other charities and discovered that Christian Aid has had a similar approach.

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## Charity foils Nigerian fraudster

BY NEIL BENNETT

TWO British aid charities have foiled attempts by Nigerian fraudsters to swindle them out of thousands of pounds in a complex plot involving fictitious wills and a forged central bank cheque.

Cafod, the Catholic aid agency, narrowly avoided losing £6,000. Yesterday, the agency warned other charities to be on their guard against similar schemes. The affair is similar to a recent wave of fraud from the backstreets of Lagos that fooled more than 100 small UK businesses with the lure of easy money. Cafod was first contacted by the fraudsters early in November. A man describing himself as Mr D. Mba, from Ave Maria Chambers, Lagos, sent the charity a fax announcing

that it had been left £150,000 in the will of the late Dr Mrs Rosaline Ellis-Okafor. He explained that she was a devout Catholic, who had married a Nigerian and lived in Nigeria for 23 years before dying last summer.

Fax messages went back and forth until just before Christmas, when Cafod received by courier a cheque for £150,000, apparently drawn on The Central Bank of Nigeria. But Mr Mba then said he needed £6,000 within eight days to pay death duties, and urged Cafod to send the money by direct transfer.

The charity asked for an extension over Christmas. When its staff returned, they realised there were grounds for suspicion. A member of staff in the accounts department noticed that the cheque had a

## LWT fights back with estimated £43m profit

BY CARL MORTISHED

AFTER weeks of sniping at Granada Group's £700 million bid, LWT Holdings came out of its corner fighting yesterday with a surprise profit estimate of £43 million for 1993, well ahead of market expectations.

The company, which owns the London Weekend Television franchise and makes programmes such as *Gladiators* and *Blind Date*, told its shareholders that growth would continue from its core broadcasting and programmes business and urged them to continue to reject Granada's offer.

The scale of the uplift, an increase of 43 per cent on the previous year, surprised the market, which was expecting profits of about £37 million for the year to October. Granada shares slid 7p to 573p on the news. LWT shares were down 2p to 673p and remained below the current value of Granada's share-for-share offer of 68p.

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of LWT, said the results were the best he had presented and, in response to criticism from Granada, said LWT had taken steps to ensure it was large enough to compete in ITV.

"We are bigger than they are where it matters: we are bigger in net advertising revenue share, we are bigger in margins and we are bigger in return on capital employed."

"They are bigger round the belly. Where it matters is to be bigger round the biceps."

LWT is raising the final dividend to 10p, a total of 14p for the year and up 18p per cent on 1992. Greg Dyke, chief executive, said LWT would benefit from any growth in consumer spending and advertising through the group's

high operational gearing. "As long as we continue to keep costs under control 80 per cent of any growth goes through to the bottom line," he said.

Sir Christopher said that by accepting the bid, shareholders would be exchanging shares in a pure television company for shares in a conglomerate with 87 per cent gearing.

Analysts were reassured that most of the profits growth appeared to come from cost reductions. Katherine Pelly, of Kleinwort Benson, said: "If ever a management deserved its independence for its ability to run its business, it is LWT. These are not numbers to be cynical about, because they are all reductions in costs."

Granada Group said the profits rise failed to rebut the logic of its offer. Gerry Robinson, chief executive, said that LWT had produced its profits in a relatively protected environment but that it would not have the resources to compete effectively in the future.

LWT increased its underlying turnover with a 3.8 per cent increase in net advertising revenue to £165 million with profits before licence payments up 67 per cent on the previous year while trading margins improved from 17.9 per cent to 28 per cent. The company benefited from lower schedule costs, down £3.6 million, and a higher than expected rebate from Channel 4 of £4.3 million. Cost savings of £2 million were achieved from the new transmission service run jointly for Carlton and GMTV while a further £3 million was saved in joint programming for LNN, the regional news company.

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BUSINESS EDITOR  
Robert Ballantyne

**BUSINESS TODAY**

SKY BUY



High street retailers are keen to become involved in airport shopping as BAA doubles the amount of sales space  
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TAKE OFF

A surge in demand for commercial property helped profit figures from two quoted companies  
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DIVE



Metallgesellschaft may be saved but Germany's economy is suffering its sharpest decline since the war  
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STALL

Geest shares fell after the banana group warned investors of a £10 million loss for the year just ended  
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021 101 50



# UK's smaller firms lead escape from recession

FROM JAMES LANDALE  
IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN's small and medium-sized businesses look set to pull out of recession quicker than their European Union counterparts, according to figures out yesterday.

British companies expect greater growth in turnover, employment and profitability in 1994 but still anticipate a poor showing in the export market. However, the rest of Europe's small and medium-sized busi-

nesses (SMEs) face gloomy prospects for the year. More than two thirds of the 1,000 British companies surveyed last November and December expected to increase turnover during 1994. Less than half of the other EU firms surveyed had similar expectations, he survey, carried out by Grant Thornton International, a federation of accounting firms, covered more than 5,000 companies across the European Union, Austria, Sweden and Malta.

While more than half the British

firms expected an increase in profitability, two thirds of firms in the rest of the EU expected it to fall or stay the same. At the same time, 32 per cent of British firms expected to create jobs compared with only 19 per cent in the rest of Europe.

Michael Rogerson, a partner of the UK branch of Grant Thornton International, said: "It is clear from these findings that UK smaller businesses are poised to climb out of recession. We have been hearing for some time about encouraging signs

in our economy and it seems the nation's powerhouse of SMEs is eager to translate these signs into reality in 1994."

The only cloud on the horizon was that continental firms expected to increase exports more than their British counterparts. More than half the EU firms said they were involved in the export market compared with only about two in five in the UK. "In addition to the lower level of optimism, this is disappointing, especially with the opening of the Channel

tunnel only five months away," Mr Rogerson said.

British companies also expected to spend little on research and development.

Across Europe, the recession affecting small to medium-sized businesses, which employ 75 per cent of Europe's workforce, appears to be bottoming out at a slow pace. Less than a third of businesses expected to be able to raise selling prices and only a quarter expect to increase investment of any kind.

## Deutsche Bank backs £1.2bn MG rescue plan

BY COLIN NARBROUGH  
WORLD TRADE  
CORRESPONDENT

DEUTSCHE Bank has given crucial backing to a plan to prevent Metallgesellschaft (MG), the metals and engineering group, from becoming the greatest postwar German corporate failure in an economy still reeling from recession.

Kajio Neukirchen, the company doctor brought into rescue MG, a leading ring member of the London Metal Exchange, had given the company's creditors until the end of business today to approve a DM3.2 billion (£1.24 billion) plan, issuing a warning that the alternative was insolvency proceedings.

News that Deutsche Bank, Germany's biggest and most influential commercial bank, and other key German and international banks were ready to support the rescue

■ The German economy has passed the trough of the recession but the most optimistic forecast for the year was growth of 1 per cent, say economists

German workforce of 147,000. This follows a cut of 11,400 jobs last year and 14,000 in 1992. Bernd Gottschalk, chairman of Mercedes trucks, said the division was likely to remain in the red this year.

With economists predicting a very slow recovery in west Germany, the prospect of MG, with its 57,000 workforce, failing prompted Günther Rexrodt, the economics minister, to intervene on Monday. In the name of saving jobs at home and easing tensions on world metal markets, he urged MG's creditors to increase financial backing for the company.

West German GDP in the final quarter of 1993 was unchanged from the previous quarter, but was 0.7 per cent lower than in the same quarter of 1992. The federal statistics office said the economy had passed the trough of recession, but that it was unclear when recovery would become established. Economists' forecasts for 1994 range between a slight decline and growth of about 1 per cent.

East Germany, boosted by a massive transfer of funds from the west, grew 6.3 per cent last

year, after almost 10 per cent growth the year before. This gave part-German growth of 1.3 per cent for last year.

The support of Deutsche Bank, MG's largest creditor and key shareholder, and that of other big creditors, means that Herr Neukirchen should be able to proceed with his plan to restore MG to health after the DM1.8 billion loss incurred last year, when oil hedging deals went badly wrong. The company still faces potential losses of DM1.5 billion from futures deals.

The rescue plan calls for new liquidity through a DM1.4 billion capital increase and the conversion of DM1.3 billion of debt into future equity. An extra credit line of DM500 million is also foreseen. Barclays Bank is also a substantial creditor to MG.

Deutsche Bank attacked fellow creditor Norddeutsche Landesbank, owed DM240 million by MG, for comments about the rescue concept, accusing Norddeutsche of endangering the success of the scheme. An alternative plan from Norddeutsche had been viewed with "extreme displeasure", Deutsche Bank said.



David Tiedeman with model Petra, who is wearing an outfit from the new collection

## Jacques Vert in the pink

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE recovery at Jacques Vert continued as the women's wear manufacturer and retailer reported a jump in pre-tax profit from £186,000 to £333,000 for the six months to October 30.

The improved performance was driven by a turnaround at the retail division, which made it back into the black helped by expansion into department store concessions. The group now has 23 standalone stores and 58 concessions with a further eight concessions planned this year. David Tiedeman, managing director, said he wanted "a period of consolidation".

The profit rise was achieved despite a £400,000 exceptional charge after revaluation of the property portfolio. Net borrowings, at £6.1 million two years ago, have fallen from £3.9 million to £1.7 million in the year. The interim dividend rises from 1p to 1.5p.

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## Owners names new finance director

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

OWNERS Abroad, the holiday company, has continued to rebuild its board with the appointment of Malcolm Heald as finance director.

Mr Heald, who has been finance director of Jacques Vert, the women's clothes manufacturer, since 1992, will take the seat vacated by Geoffrey Stone in November.

He will join a new top management team. Howard Klein, chairman of Owners, and Roger Allard, operations supervisor, resigned after a profits warning in July. Four months after fighting off a takeover bid from his rival Alitours.

Mr Heald will start his new job next month, joining Francis Baron, the new chief executive, and Michael Julien, non-executive chairman.

Mr Julien said the appointment completed the initial appointments at board level. He said Owners had now put

its team together and had "now nearly put the past behind us".

The company announced a restructuring last month, including the redundancy of 260 management and support staff. It said the restructuring was part of a three-phase plan to restore the company's fortunes.

Mr Julien said yesterday that Owners would have a much tighter, flatter structure. Mr Baron is still looking for a commercial director, and is considering appointing a human resources director.

Mr Heald became finance and systems director of Kingfisher's Charlie Browns Auto-centres in 1987, after spending six years with Charter Consolidated.

In 1989, he moved to become finance director of Chartwell Land, Kingfisher's property subsidiary with assets at that time of over £800 million.

## Geest loss warning sends shares tumbling 88p

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

GEEST shares slumped 88p to 276p after the banana importer said it expects a pre-tax loss for the year to January 1, instead of the £10 million profit the City had awaited.

The collapse of banana prices in the European Community since a new regime for imports started last summer, plus an outbreak of disease affecting the crop in Costa Rica, were cited as the main factors behind the sharp deterioration.

Despite an operating profit "significantly lower than internal expectations", due entirely to a shortfall on profits from the banana business, Geest said it plans to maintain its dividend.

The pre-tax loss for 1993 includes an £8.9 million exceptional charge to cover costs linked to the outbreak of black sigatoka disease on Geest's plantations in Costa Rica.

Before exceptional items, Geest said its operating profit in the second half last year was likely to be higher than the previous year.

The new EC banana regime has caused the banana price to slump to below production cost in the Windward Islands, source of most Geest bananas. In the last seven weeks alone, the price has fallen by up to 20 per cent in Britain.

Latin American trade ministers meet in Costa Rica tomorrow to decide whether to accept an EC offer of 200,000 tonnes of additional import quota that is likely to undermine prices further.

With little prospect of the underlying trend in the wholesale market being reversed in the short term, the company said it has decided to withdraw from the wholesale markets in Manchester, Leeds and Hull and combine two

branches in Liverpool. An exceptional charge of £2.5 million will be included in the 1993 account to cover costs of closure and reorganisation, which should enhance future operating profits by £1.5 million a year.

Brian Wallace, finance director, said Geest expects the banana situation to improve this year, and for its foods and produce business to show continued progress. The company expects positive cash flow for 1994 after the completion of its investment programme in the banana business last year.

City analysts have downgraded their forecasts for Geest for this year. Julian Laken, of Smith New Court, predicts a recovery to £15 million profit. He had been forecasting a £25 million profit.

## Company doctor unveils £10m profit

### Stakis outshines the market

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

STAKIS, the hotels and casinos group, has sufficiently recovered its financial health to trigger once again the employee share scheme inactive for three years.

Sir Lewis Robertson, "the company doctor" who became chairman in March 1991, said that it had been not the market, but the group's own endeavours, that helped to turn a 1992 profit of only £305,000 (before an exceptional item of £47.7 million) into pre-tax profit of £10.4 million for the 53 weeks to October 3.

The share scheme involves 2,500 to 3,000 employees, and £435,000 has been set aside in the 1993 accounts.

Stakis, which restored interim dividend payments in 1993 with a 0.45p declaration, is raising the 1993 final dividend from 0.45p to 0.55p, making 1p. The shares rose 4p to 75p. Operating profit from continuing businesses increased by £6 million, to £25.6 million, and net interest fell by £7.4 million, to £16.3 million. Gearing at October 3 was 46 per cent — with which Sir



David Michels, left, chief executive, and Sir Lewis

Lewis said he felt comfortable — down from 77 per cent.

During the year, Stakis raised £28 million via a rights issue at 32p a share, and a further £8.3 million from a share placing, and sold its healthcare division. A "rump" of property, in the books at £10 million and including Caxton Hall, London, remains. Stakis owns 31 hotels, whose

overall occupancy rate was 69 per cent. Hotels' operating margins improved from 24 per cent to 28 per cent, but average room rates continued weak. The division's operating profit contribution was £19.6 million (£15.9 million).

The "cash drop" at Stakis's casino interests, of which there are 21, increased by £11 million, to £225 million, and the

gaming margin improved from 17.1 per cent to 17.8 per cent. Operating profits were £10.9 million (£7.83 million).

Stakis, whose chief executive is David Michels, recently acquired three casinos for £10.6 million, and is keen to expand the division in Britain.

A riser property valuation led to a £41 million net reduction at September 30. Sir Lewis said that this should not be seen as a permanent diminution and that the sum has been set against past revaluation surpluses in a revaluation reserve. Stakis will now adopt a rolling annual valuation of a third of its properties.

Sir Lewis, who invariably leaves the chair once a company's fortunes are restored, said that he expected to be with Stakis for a while yet.

Richard Cole-Hamilton was made deputy chairman last December and Sir Lewis said that he looked forward to "his increased involvement and enhancing contribution". Stakis can gain from thoroughly researched opportunities, Sir Lewis said.

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Slaughter and May top in takeover legal work

SLAUGHTER and May, the City firm of solicitors, has emerged top of the league of legal advisers acting in UK public takeovers. The firm advised on 13 deals last year, worth a total of £1.70 billion. It rose from seventh place in 1992. Acquisitions Monthly, compiler of the league table, said that Herbert Smith had jumped from sixth place to second place, acting on 15 deals, worth £1.48 billion. Clifford Chance moved up a position to third, changing place with Linklaters & Paines, now fourth. Freshfields, first in 1992, slipped to fifth, while Norton Rose, second in 1992, fell to ninth.

Slaughter and May acted for financial advisers in seven deals, and for companies in six. It acted for Hambros on Carlton's £758 million offer for Central Independent Television, and has helped London Weekend Television to fight Granada's £600 million bid. Tom Phillips, a partner in Herbert Smith, said that the past 12 months had felt slightly busier than the year before, "but it has hardly been frenetic".

### Littlewoods shuns lottery

LITTLEWOODS, the pools and retailing empire, has decided not to compete with Vernons Pools in the £4 billion-a-year scramble to run the National Lottery. It has called on the government to change the framework within which it will compete with the new enterprise, which threatens to bite deeply into its earnings. In particular, it wants the right to advertise on television. The company said pools and lotteries performed similar functions. It would therefore concentrate on its pools business. Vernons joined the lottery race this week with the launch of Games for Good Causes.

### Lloyd's offer under fire

FELTRIM Names Association, one of the largest Lloyd's action groups, is recommending its names reject Lloyd's £900 million settlement offer. Litigating names on the loss-making Feltrim syndicates have been offered £236.7 million. As a result they hold 26.3 per cent of the votes, nearly enough to block the offer. Lloyd's has said that more than 70 per cent of the total value of the offer has to be accepted for the offer to go unconditional. Feltrim names are due to vote on the offer on January 21. The association wants names' approval to negotiate to try to win improvements to the offer.

### Aeroflot 'in profit'

ABERFLOT Russian International Airlines, the state-owned carrier that runs the lucrative international business of the once monolithic Soviet Aeroflot, escaped the fate of many western national carriers by producing a profit last year, according to Gennady Egorov, its Swiss general manager. "We have no red ink," he said in Zurich yesterday. CSA, the financially troubled Czech airline, has asked Air France, the loss-making French national carrier, to sell its 38.2 per cent CSA stake to Czech investors. The French have said they intend to stay long-term investors.

### Saracen placing

SARACEN Value Trust, a new smaller companies investment trust, is to raise up to £50 million by a placing and offer of up to 50 million 100p shares. A pathfinder prospectus was published yesterday. The issue is to be sponsored and underwritten by Charterhouse Tilney. The investments will be managed by Saracen Fund Managers, a new Glasgow-based investment management company. Saracen is jointly owned by Jim Fisher, former associate director of Scottish Amicable Investment Managers, and IAF Group. The funds will be invested in smaller companies in the FT-SE SmallCap Index.

### Europa merger delayed

EUROPA Minerals Group, the resources company with interests in gold and coal, says that the proposed three-way merger involving itself, Burnmire and Ausim Gold of Australia has been further delayed by rulings given by the Australian Securities Commission. Mount Edon Gold Mines of Australia objects to the planned deal between the three companies, and has put forward alternative plans. Appeals and counter appeals have been lodged, and a further hearing is listed for March 14. Europa still considers the three-way deal to be in the best interests of all companies.

### Banesto chief responds

MARIO Conde, right, ousted chairman of Banco Español de Crédito (Banesto), accused the Spanish central bank of exaggerating the shortfall in Banesto funds and threatened a legal challenge to its takeover. He said that the shortfall was only 100 billion pesetas (£463 million), a fifth of the central bank estimate. He said the liquidity, solvency and stability of Banesto, Spain's fourth largest bank, did not warrant any intervention.





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Div: 0.7p, mkg 0.95p

**VIE HOLDINGS (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £1.77m (£1.50m)  
EPS: 3.5p (3.3p)  
Div: 1.1p (0.9p)

**DEWHURST (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £395,000  
EPS: 5.02p (5.10p)  
Div: 1.4p, mkg 2.08p

**McMULLEN & SONS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £5.33m (£4.54m)  
EPS: —  
Div: 0.735p, mkg 1.47p

Total rents rose to £10.1m (£9.2m). The company said it had seen signs of general improvement in the property market.

Final results. Turnover advanced to £8.87m (£8.2m). Group said trading since the year end had been good. Registered beds up 48% to 798.

Last time, profit was £776,000 and the total dividend, 0.88p. Turnover fell to £28.2m (£28.8m). Gearing has fallen to 35%.

Turnover rose to £12.6m (£9.46m). Group said current trading remained very profitable. Balance sheet strengthened, with £5m cash.

Last time, profit was £845,000 and the total dividend, 1.88p. Sales to the depressed film industry remained static.

Turnover fell to £32.5m (£32.8m). There was an exceptional profit of £948,000 (£814,000). Last time's total dividend was 1.4p.



□ Why Eurotunnel cannot afford a price war □ Whitehall adds red tape by the mile □ Waiting game for LWT/Granada

## More cash goes down the hole

THOSE huge cost overruns that have so blighted the prospects for Eurotunnel's shareholders have also radically changed the approach it must take to trading. On the original sums, the relatively low running costs would have allowed it terrific flexibility to take traffic from ferry operators on price and expand the market by reducing the cost of travel. Now, it cannot afford to take many risks on revenue. Maximising revenue must therefore rely much more on non-price competition, even though the overruns make growth in the market more crucial.

The last thing Eurotunnel wants is a price war with the ferry companies, who revealingly greeted tunnel tariffs published yesterday as "realistic". For its part, Eurotunnel made clear it would have no objection to Sealink and P&O getting together, ostensibly to manage contraction more efficiently. Surprise, surprise. When all sides favour anything that reduces competition, consumers should become suspicious fast. They will need all the protection the Office of Fair Trading can give them.

Certainly, Eurotunnel has powerful non-price advantages. It offers a much faster cross-Channel crossing and its service should be weather-proof. The Continent will no longer be cut

off by fog in the Channel. For the classic travelling family with car, however, it is less clear that these alone will give the tunnel overwhelming appeal. People do not like dark tunnels and ferries are not often disrupted in the high season. So how much extra cross-Channel traffic will be generated? Once the sightseeing effect wears off, Le Shuttle might not itself create enough without a fall in travel costs.

In the early years, before abolition of duty-free hits ferry revenue, the ship-owners may feel the tunnel is the weak competitor, a very different prospect from what looked likely five years ago. Eurotunnel's huge interest bill gives it little leeway and little room for error or risky experiment. The planned rights issue will not fundamentally change that.

Much will therefore depend on other sorts of traffic attracted to the tunnel. Through trains to Paris and Brussels may not be so profitable for Eurotunnel but they offer scope for a huge expansion of travel. Even more glittering is the prospect for freight. Here, speed and cer-

tainty should prove more telling. Eurotunnel should be able to divert the profitable bulk of cross-Channel trade from the surface, over a much wider geographical area and generate lots of new trade traffic — but only if its gets its freight tariffs right. If Georges-Christian Chazot, the French industrialist in the frame to replace Sir Alastair Morton as chief executive takes the plunge, he will need a strong grounding in business game theory. Shareholders need him to be daring but cannot afford him to make many mistakes. It promises to be a long nail-biting ride.

### A new record for mumbo jumbo

BRITAIN'S tax affairs are in a fine mess when even the tax experts say they are having trouble understanding the law because it is too complex — especially when that law is intended to "simplify" personal tax for the self-employed. That is the nub of the instant letter of complaint fired off by Michael



Chamberlain, President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, over the Finance Bill published yesterday. Part of the trouble is that there is too much new tax law. The April Finance Bill was unusually long. Its 208 clauses included 46 mind-boggling ones on taxation of companies' foreign exchange gains and losses. Nine months later comes a record 417 page Bill, running to 241 clauses as well as appendices and schedules. As a counterpart to April's foreign exchange nonsense, it has 31 clauses on the tax treatment of interest rate contracts, as well as the 41 on self-assessment and simplification that have the institute up in arms. As Andrew Jones, Ernst & Young's senior

tax partner points out, even the most dedicated MP is unlikely to be able to vet the Bill properly, or make sense of such concepts as "notional foreign source advance corporation tax".

Previous Tory Chancellors saw it as a badge of honour to abolish some tax each year. Kenneth Clarke invented two new ones: on non-life insurance policies and airline passengers. Both are to be administered by Customs & Excise, whose heavy hand is evident in the rules, as it was in the lottery duty regime in April. This time, the excise men gain a right to insist airlines post security in advance for passenger duty. How long before the first airline is closed at the behest of Customs?

Tax accountants were looking for trouble long before they rushed out to buy copies of the Bill yesterday morning. That is because many top practitioners are fed up with some of the shifting sands of Parliamentary draftsmen who translate ministerial intentions into legislation. They were infuriated by early drafts of technical sections for the April Bill and unhappy

with the final version. Having learnt the arrangements for this Bill, they expected the worst. They were not disappointed. As Mr Chamberlain complains, the tortuous style of drafting makes an inherently complex subject even harder for taxpayers and advisers, who make money out of complicated rules, to understand. There is no point in changing to a "simplified" personal tax system that proves more complicated. Back to the drafting board.

### Poker on television

LWT's estimated results for 1993 — embracing a 43 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £43.8 million — were impressive but not quite impressive enough to raise its share price of 673p to a premium over Granada's share swap terms worth 686.4 p.

While LWT's paper remains at a discount, the heat, to all intents and purposes, is off Granada, if the Alex Bernstein/Gerry Robinson duo are prepared to call the bluff of City institutions who,

come the talking game, will inevitably hint as to how a cash or dividend sweetener, or preferably both, might just prove irresistible. The talking game invariably coincides with what is known as "presentations".

Following the termination of "quarter" discussions with Yorkshire Tyne-Tees and Anglia, Sir Christopher Bland, LWT's chief, is left to play a relatively straight bat: namely, why exchange glamour shares in the TV sector for those in a predatory conglomerate? Bland is nothing if not consistent.

News of a 50 per cent increase in LWT's eps was calmly received by Robinson who stood by the "generous value" placed on LWT's equity, the exit p/e, in the wake of an 8p fall in Granada's shares, being a shade over 24 times.

One of the ironies is that government deregulation (bowing to the God of market forces) has effectively denied LWT a classic defence tactic by way of a call for an MMC reference, based on the fact that Carlton/Granada/LWT will, between them, account for more than 50 per cent of ITV's £1.4 billion advertising spend. So much for the God of competition. What shareholders should, however, bear in mind is that if a White Knight is going to appear, now is the time.

Lehman hands over £27m to liquidators

## Maxwell cash recovered

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE liquidators to the manager of the Maxwell company pension schemes have recovered shares worth £27 million from Lehman Brothers, the US investment bank owned by American Express. But Lehman continues to resist Bishopsgate Investment Management's claim for other assets worth £70 million.

The recovered assets, consisting of units in a Lazard Property Unit Trust and shares in The Telegraph, were handed over to the joint liquidators, Neil Cooper and Ipe Jacob of Robson Rhodes, the firm of accountants, in November. The news was not

made public, however, as the two sides still hoped to reach agreement over the rest of the claim. In the event, this did not prove possible.

Bishopsgate is the trustee of the Common Investment Fund, which managed the pension fund assets. Bishopsgate ran six pension schemes for 32,000 pensioners of private companies controlled by the late Robert Maxwell.

The liquidators have also drafted a claim to recover an undisclosed amount from Crédit Suisse. The claim is that Crédit Suisse took collateral for a loan to the Robert Maxwell Group. No writ has

yet been lodged. The liquidators also have a claim to recover shares worth £3 million in Ennis, an investment bank, held by Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP). The shares were allegedly transferred by Bishopsgate's former directors to BNP, where they allegedly served as collateral for a loan to Hesdington Holdings, a privately owned Maxwell company. A claim was lodged in the French courts last September.

When Robson Rhodes was appointed in 1991, £720 million was missing from the pension funds. The liquidators have recovered £320 million. A

spokeswoman said yesterday that interest-rate movements and current values could mean the amount required to pay all the pensioners would be less than £400 million.

So far, the liquidators have made two distributions to pension trustees, totalling £40 million. The spokeswoman said that, so far, pensioners had been paid what they were due and the liquidators were hopeful that all would be paid in full.

Lehman is also fighting a £200 million claim from Mirror Group Pension Trustees against it. Invesco MIM and Capel Cure Myers.

### Sale price at Tiphook cut by £73m

TIPHOOK is to receive £75 million less from the sale of its container division than was originally thought (Colin Campbell writes).

The company said that Transamerica, which had agreed to buy the division, had completed its due diligence and that the purchase price has been reduced by £73 million to £757 million.

It is expected that, out of the purchase price, between £38 million and £48 million will be held in escrow to cover any valid claims under the agreement. Tiphook shares fell 6p to 66p.

## Leading high street retailers report strong sales growth

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

MORE good news emerged from the high street yesterday as Storehouse and Laura Ashley, two of Britain's leading retailers, reported buoyant Christmas trading.

Storehouse, the BHS to Mothercare group, said sales in the six weeks before Christmas were 13 per cent ahead of last year — in line with analysts' most optimistic expectations. Richard Dixon, a Storehouse director, said all the chains had seen double-digit growth, with Mothercare registering the biggest gains.

Even when the effect of new store openings was split out, BHS still achieved just over 10 per cent growth. Mr Dixon said the strong

Christmas showing meant that sales for the year to date were ahead of the 5 per cent increase reported at the interim stage.

Analysts held their full-year profit forecasts at £65 million to £69 million, compared with last year's £47 million.

Laura Ashley's British stores saw an 18 per cent rise in sales in the eight weeks before Christmas. North America was up by 23 per cent and continental Europe by 7 per cent. The figures were better than expected and prompted some analysts to upgrade their full-year profit forecasts by almost £1 million to £3.5 million. Jim Maxmin, chief executive, said the sales

rise had been achieved without discounting, so gross margins had held steady. Storehouse shares slipped 3p to 39p; Laura Ashley's gained 7p to 85p.

Shares of Magellan Industries, a lingerie supplier to Marks and Spencer, fell from 212p to 125p yesterday, before recovering to 168p, after the company issued a statement saying that 1993 sales had been significantly below expectations (Colin Campbell writes). They suffered from production bottlenecks compounded by staff shortages. Magellan expects to maintain the 1993 dividend at 1.4p.

Tempus, page 27

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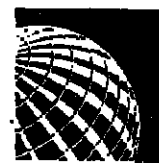
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# Great Universal weighed down by 13m share parcel

SHARES in Great Universal Stores are expected to open sharply lower when trading resumes this morning after a large parcel of shares changed hands. The price lost an early lead yesterday to finish 60p lower at 620p after Smith New Court, the broker, paid 600p each for almost 13 million shares as part of a bought deal. But by the close of business last night the ticker showed SNC had only managed to unload 4.37 million at 610p leaving an estimated 8.5 million on its books.

Other market-makers are unlikely to show mercy to SNC especially if they believe more than 8 million shares are overhanging the market. The rest of the equity market drifted from much of the day

as the profit-takers continued to unload after a sell-off on the futures market. Sentiment was also dented by a report from Dun & Bradstreet suggesting companies are eager to push up prices as soon as possible thereby reviving fears about inflationary pressures.

An opening fall on Wall Street and the continued absence of foreign buyers left the FT-SE 100 index near its low for the day with a fall of 26.8 at 3,413.8. Turnover was again on the high side with 882 million shares traded.

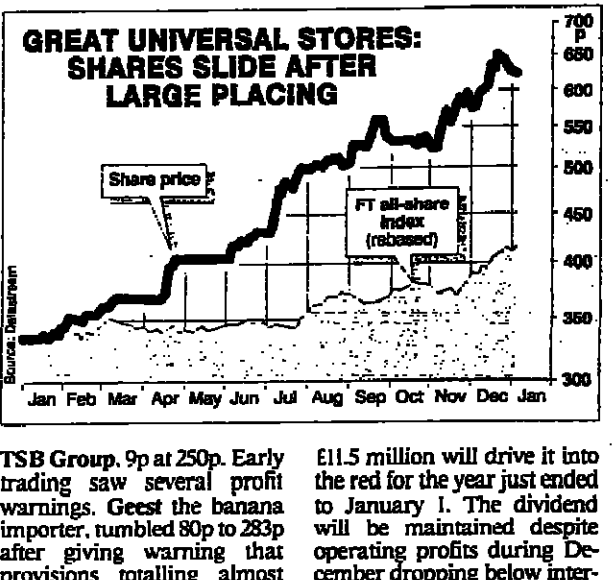
Rank Organisation were

again a weak market sliding 20p to 993p before tomorrow's figures. The shares have fallen 45p in the past two days.

Reuters hardened 9p to £10.72. The company is giving a presentation to brokers in London on Friday. But British Gas eased 5p to 347p with Hoare Govett, its own broker, reckoned to have turned more cautious on the shares.

Hilldown jumped 7p to 178p after an encouraging statement about trading. Hoare Govett followed this by raising its profit forecast £9 million to £175 million.

Worries about future dividend payments hit the banks with Barclays down 12p to 597p, HSBC 9p to 493p, Lloyds 17p to 620p, National Westminster 13p to 597p, and



TSB Group 9p to 250p. Early trading saw several profit warnings. Geest the banana importer, tumbled 80p to 233p after giving warning that provisions totalling almost £11.5 million will drive it into the red for the year just ended to January 1. The dividend will be maintained despite operating profits during December dropping below inter-

nal estimates. Most of the provisions relate to an outbreak of black sigatoka disease on its Costa Rican plantations. The market had been looking for profits of at least £10 million. The news from Geest also left rival Fyffes 5p lower at 100p.

Shares in Magellan Industries also touched 125p before closing 47p lower at 105p after giving warning that production problems at the swimwear and lingerie supplier had hit both sales and profits.

Laura Ashley, up 7p to 85p, and Storehouse, 3p cheaper at 239p, cheered the stores sector with positive news about Christmas trading. Laura Ashley saw sales grow 17.5 per cent during the eight weeks before Christmas with-

out having to offer discounts. Storehouse, also increased sales 13 per cent in the period covering mid-November to Christmas. Profitability was in line with expectations but margins were squeezed by increased promotional activity.

LWT (Holdings), were steady at 675p after forecasting a 43 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £43.8 million and a rise in the dividend. The forecast formed an integral part of its defence against the unwarranted £700 million offer from Granada, down 7p to 572p. Granada maintained £125 1/2 in the dividend, to compete effectively in the new competitive television environment.

Eurotunnel ended 17p

MICHAEL CLARK

## MARKETS AT A GLANCE

**THE POUND**

US \$ 1.4901 (+0.0052)  
German mark 2.5634 (+0.0039)  
Exchange index 82.5 (same)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

**STOCK MARKET**

FT-SE 100 3413.8 (-26.8)  
Dow Jones 3854.82 (-21.36)  
Nikkei Avg 18495.25 (-41.81)

**INTEREST RATES**

London Bank Base 5.75%  
3-month Interbank 5 1/4%  
US Federal Funds 2 1/4%  
5-month Treasury Bills 2.99-2.97%  
Long Bond 6.24%

**CURRENCIES**

New York: London 1.4901  
S. DM 1.7390 CDM 2.5943  
S. SWR 1.4771 C. SWR 2.2038  
S. Fr 5.9168 C. Fr 8.8230  
S. Yen 167.51  
S. DSR 1.0834 C. Yen 1.3374  
London Foreign market close

**GOLD**

London Fixing (\$):  
AM 384.35 PM 385.45  
Close 385.25-385.75  
New York:  
Comex 385.95-386.45

**OIL**

Brent Crude: \$13.80 per bbl (Feb)

**RETAIL PRICES**

RPI 141.6 Nov (1.4%) Jan 1987=100  
Denotes midday trading price

## Watson & Philip up by 21%

A first-time contribution from Circle K, the convenience retailer acquired in February for £21 million, helped to lift profits at Watson & Philip, the food stores group, by 21 per cent for the year to October 29.

Pre-tax profits rose from £10.3 million to £12.5 million on turnover 17 per cent up at £74 million (£62 million). A 9.9p final dividend makes a 14.3p (13.3p) Without Circle K, profits would have fallen because of continuing margin pressure in the group's cash and carry business. David Bremner, chief executive, says that the group is reviewing the future of these operations.

The core retail division, including the Circle K and Aldays chains, was unaffected by price pressure in the rest of the food retailing industry.

**Trust's payout**

Kleinwort Benson's Merchants Trust investment trust set a 2.85p third-quarter dividend. The first two quarterly dividends totalled 5.3p. A full-year payout of not less than 11p is forecast, up on last year's 10.6p.

**EMI picks Doyle**

Maurice Doyle, governor of the Irish central bank, was yesterday made vice-president of the European Monetary Institute (EMI), the embryo European central bank.

## Property groups start to recover

BY CARL MORTISHED

A SURGE in demand for commercial property from investors has provided a boost for quoted surveying firms.

Debenhams Tewson & Chinnocks Holdings, which owns the merged business of DTZ Debenhams Thorpe, made a £1.65 million profit in the six months to October 31, up from £900,000 last time, while profits at Savills for the same period recovered from £0.2 million to £1.2 million, with strong growth in commercial and residential business.

The improved conditions are flowing through to investors with the resumption of an interim dividend payment of 0.75p at Savills and a 25 per cent rise to 1.5p for Debenhams shareholders.

Richard Lay, chairman, said Debenhams had benefited from investor demand in Germany, where DTZ Zadelhoff, a joint venture, was able to attract a large share of the money flowing into UK commercial property.

He said: "The investment market is very strong indeed although in a very narrow area. But on the other side, demand for space is only just beginning to recover. I still think it will be the end of this calendar year before we see



A stronger market is welcome news for Richard Lay

significant letting activity." Savills more than doubled profits from its commercial business to £568,000 during the period, while the residential side turned 1992's interim loss of £176,000 into profits of £511,000. George Inge, chairman, said that the recovery in the London residential market was continuing, with a high level of overseas buyers.

Mr Lay said Debenhams was managing more than £5 billion worth of commercial property and, in the first half, the firm had acted in the sale or purchase of properties worth more than £600 million, mostly in central London.

## Dow dips in midday trading

New York — US shares continued to be sold in midday trading, with Chevron, Goodyear and United Technologies the biggest losers among blue chips. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 10.69 at 3,854.82.

□ Tokyo — Shares ended mixed, shedding early gains amid selling by corporations and dealers. Absence of follow-through buying by foreigners aided downward momentum. The Nikkei average closed at 18,485.25, up 41.81, or 0.23 per cent.

□ Singapore — Shares fell sharply as retail and institutional funds sold. The Straits Times index closed down 76.16 (3.14 per cent) at 2,349.20.

□ Sydney — Shares gained, but a turnaround in futures took the bourse off its post-1987 crash high, set in early trade. The all-ordinaries index ended 8.2 up, at 2,206.7, off its 2,216.5 day's best.

**RISES:**

Macro 4 713p (+13p)  
Kenwood App 383p (+11p)  
Farnell Elect 800p (+11p)  
Blick 485p (+10p)  
Coelect 124p (+12p)  
Watson & Philip 343p (+33p)  
Carrs Milling 166p (+11p)  
Adam & Harvey 313p (+11p)  
Kleinwort Benson 607p (+13p)  
Hambros 403p (+15p)  
Close Bros 544p (+11p)

**FALLS:**

Barclays 597p (-12p)  
Lloyds 620p (-17p)  
Nal West 597p (-13p)  
Hepworth 482p (-19p)  
Dart 164p (-14p)  
Inchcape 544p (-10p)  
Kingsfisher 723p (-14p)  
Mtel 452p (-25p)

Closing Prices Page 29

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.30	2.10
Canada \$	19.15	17.65
Belgium Fr	52.72	52.72
Canada \$	2.075	1.915
Czech Cor	0.028	0.028
Denmark Kr	0.88	0.88
France Fr	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	2.24	2.24
Greece Dr	354.00	354.00
Hong Kong \$	12.18	11.18
Ireland P	1.08	1.00
Italy Lit	264.00	249.00
Japan Yen	183.00	183.00
Malaysia RM	0.022	0.022
Netherlands Gld	0.003	0.003
Norway Kr	11.77	10.87
Portugal Esc	274.00	255.00
S Africa Rd	1.12	1.12
Spain Ptas	223.00	203.00
Sweden Kron	12.72	12.72
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.15
Turkey Lira	2219.00	2199.00
USA \$	1.49	1.49

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

## RECENT ISSUES

Aberforth Split Ltd (100) 100p	Friends Prov Zero (160) 62p	Masthead Insee (100) 108p	Securitized End Cost (60) 62p
Abm Lloyd Insee (100) 96p	Gartmore (168) 201p	Mercury World Mng (100) 114p	
CLM Insee (100) 110p	Govett Emerging C 113p	NM Smitt Wts (100) 110p	
Chelsfield (155) 181p	Govett High Inc (100) 109p	NM Smitt Wts 61p	
DFS Furniture (280) 320p	Govett High Wts 27p	New London Capital (100) 99p	
Fairbairn Euro Smr (100) 98p	Harmony Leisure Wts 4p	On Demand Info (78) 117p	
Pinsbury Underwriting Inv 111p	Inspirations (100) 125p	Pilot Inv C (100) 107p	
For & Col Smaller (100) 117p	Kleinwort 2nd End (50) 51p	Rackwood (50) 46p	
Friends Prov Ethical (60) 59p	Litho Supplies (190) 240p	Rossmore (10) 11p	
Friends Prov Inv (120) 123p	London Industrial (320) 366p		

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	FT 30 share	2605.0 (-10.1)
Dow Jones 3854.82 (-21.36)	Brussels	7691.66 (-10.19)
S&P Composite 474.17 (-1.10)	Paris: CAC-40	2331.33 (-14.08)
Tokyo: Nikkei Avg	Zurich: S&K Gen	730.50 (-1.20)
18495.25 (-41.81)		
Hong Kong: Hang Seng		
11155.81 (-21.13)		
Amsterdam: AEX Index		
424.01 (-0.41)		
Sydney: AO		
2206.7 (-8.2)		
Frankfurt: DAX		
2228.75 (-5.04)		

## TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
January 11	January 11	January 11	April 15
Call options were taken out on 11/1/94: Borewater, Bure Mining, Colverson, FINEC, Greenwell Res, Greydon, Higgs & Hill, Kurick, NHL, Signet Pnt, Tullow Oil, Pals & Cullis, Harston, Kurick, Luvato, Signet.			

## COMMODITIES

Securitized End Cont (60)	62	...
<b>RIGHTS ISSUES</b>		
Anglo Irish n/p (48)	14	+1
Chemrose n/p (325)	103	...
Chemstone n/p (73)	29	+1
Europe Energy n/p (5)	9 1/2	...
Holden Jones n/p (25)	8	...
Lyvale Garden n/p (152)	19	...





Paul Harrison's Alpha Airports Group is preparing for flotation on the basis that there are good profits to be made from airline passengers

## Where consumer sales are waiting to take off

People get very excited when they talk about airport retailing. Their voices grow louder and their gestures more animated as they gush about double-digit growth rates and unprecedented sales per square foot. While the high street grows a gloomier place by the day, it seems airport terminals have become a retailing heaven — a slice of the 1980s on the route to Lanzarote.

The numbers are certainly impressive. Retail spending at airports grew by 18 per cent in 1992 (the last full year for which official figures are available), far outstripping the growth in consumer spending on the high street. With passenger growth expected to increase by at least 4-5 per cent a year until the end of the decade, there seems no danger the bubble will burst. There is also plenty of room for expansion given BAA's plans to double its retail space to 900,000 sq ft by 1997.

But airport retailing is far from being the goose that lays the golden egg. While high street retailers average margins of 5-8 per cent, those at airports are doing well to make 3-4 per cent, and probably even less, in provincial airports. With such tight margins, there is little room for error. The biggest element of cost — and the main difference between airports and the high street — is rent. Airport retailers pay a turnover-based rent with a fall-back guaranteed minimum. The percentage varies widely, depending on the type of retailer but can amount to 40-50 per cent of turnover, and even more for duty free outlets. The fact that retailers bid against each other in a competitive tender for a site also ensures that the figure continues to defy gravity. By contrast, high street rents average 10 per cent of turnover.

The truth of the matter is that the only people who can make easy money out of airport retailing are BAA, the landlords. The retailers themselves have to try a lot harder.

This fact has not escaped Alpha Airports Group, Fortis airport services division, which launched its pathfinder process yesterday ahead of its flotation. Paul Harrison, Alpha's chief executive, admits that profitability is driven by the terms of rent contracts. This was the prime reason for Alpha's efforts last year to negotiate a new-style contract with BAA for its duty free stores, which account for

### Susan Gilchrist examines why high street retailers are keen to get involved in the growing phenomenon of airport shopping

three quarters of sales. Instead of paying a turnover-based rent, Alpha now receives a management fee for operating the shop and a percentage of profits above an agreed threshold. Furthermore, it has increased the contract from five to seven years.

Although this new arrangement has reduced the upside in profitability, it has also put a floor on the downside. Mr Harrison says: "Contracts had been based on continuous growth in volume. If we had continued down that road we would have eventually shown negative profits growth." Recession and the Gulf War, which hit the airport business hard, saw many retailers struggling to make it into the black. Alpha, quite rightly, cannot allow this kind of volatility in its new life as a publicly quoted company.

It is not just rents that eat into profits. Long opening hours — sometimes 24 hours a day — push up staff costs. Nigel McGinley, chief executive of The Rack, which has 25 airport shops in nine countries, says: "Airport retailing is not an easy way to make money. With high rents and high labour costs, it is a challenging environment."

However, he believes it still has considerable rewards, particularly as a



McGinley: overseas expansion

shop window to the world. The Rack has developed a hugely successful strategy of expansion into overseas markets via airport shops. By opening its first outlet in any new country at the major airport, it raises its profile among consumers and tests customer reaction. Recent openings in Germany, Switzerland and Austria are a prelude to expansion in those countries.

Mr McGinley says the appeal of airport retailing also lies in its customer profile. Airports have a large proportion of ABCI customers walking through their doors and, with airlines advising arrival times up to two hours before departure, captive customers to boot. Even so, fewer than 30 per cent of passengers actually buy anything from an airport shop and at about £6.40 the spend per passenger is still relatively low. BAA would argue that the figures indicate the enormous potential of their retailing business. However, it could also suggest that there is a limit to how much people will spend at the airport. After all, apart from buying items they have forgotten, shopping is not the reason they are there.

This view finds some sympathy with Mr Harrison: "On the high street people have a definite set of objectives when they go. They have a specific and detailed need to shop. That is obviously not true with the traveller." However, he still believes that, with the right persuasion they can be coaxed into a little retail therapy. "Travellers have time to fill. It is up to airport retailers to convert that time into a sale."

Their mission is greatly aided by the immense amount of data available on their unsuspecting prey. "We can mathematically model what type of passenger will be in any part of the airport at a given time by looking at the flight, destinations, categories of passenger and gate numbers," Mr Harrison says. Some retailers even change their merchandise when a particular flight is scheduled. The Swedish, thanks to the high taxation on spirits in their native country, spend more on alcohol than other nations, while the

Japanese splash out on lavish gifts. Knowledge is power, and knowing which customers will be passing your shop at a certain time significantly increases the retailer's chances of making a sale as they can adapt store layout, space allocation and ordering patterns to fit.

As Mr Harrison says: "High street retailers don't have the luxury of knowing when people will be in. Mr and Mrs Smith might change their mind about shopping on Saturday because it is raining."

Alpha, and its main competitor Alders, are going to need all the customer research they can lay their hands on, however, to confront their biggest challenge — the abolition of duty free sales on intra-EC traffic in 1999. In Alpha's case that would wipe out almost half its turnover. There is always the possibility that the abolition will be deferred again — it was originally planned for last year — but to clutch at such straws would be commercial suicide and Alpha is looking for other escape routes.

One strategy it has up its sleeve is to operate outlets on behalf of retail brands who lack the critical mass, and experience, to run shops profitably themselves. Alpha has already linked up with Swatch, the fashion watch brand, and Lillywhites, the sports retailer. Mr Harrison is confident of finding other similar partners. "Airports are a high-profile environment and major brands want to be there." However, he also acknowledges that this will only go part of the way in filling the hole left by the disappearance of duty free.

But his plan has another fortunate benefit. In recent years BAA, as part of its retail strategy, has actively sought to attract major high street names. The arrival of big guns such as WH Smith and Boots has hit Alpha, whose Books Plus and Drugstore shops have lost share to their better-known high street counterparts. Mr Harrison admits: "We have got to redress the balance by linking up with recognised brands."

Airports may enjoy better growth prospects than the high street or shopping mall, but there is just as fierce a retailing battle being waged. As Mr McGinley says: "Airport retailing is not a licence to print money."

## TEMPUS

### South bank shows its hand

AFTER several weeks of detours around peripheral issues and non-bids for other companies, the argument over Granada's offer for LWT is beginning to focus on the core issue of money upfront versus the promise of future growth. Notwithstanding LWT's assurance that the Yorkshire alternative was real and only fell on a regulatory hurdle, few believed a deal for the troubled northern franchise could work on financial grounds, given the necessity to bid at least 200p per share.

Independence is a curious rallying cry for a group that argues for further deregulation to allow it to knit together an empire of its own. Despite the verbiage, everyone in the industry is in agreement on the merits of size and financial clout. Should it survive the Granada bid, LWT's life expectancy in its current guise cannot be long with cross-border media bids on the horizon.

LWT's 1993 profit performance was all

about cost-saving and the benefits in that sense were historic, however impressive. Shareholders are therefore left with the choice of selling out at today's bid premium or hanging on in the hope that a strong consumer recovery will maintain the momentum in earnings growth.

Cost-savings on this scale indicate that most of the industry is probably still carrying excess baggage and it will be interesting to see if Granada can come up with anything like LWT's cuts in overheads. But LWT's success only underlines the argument for consolidation. At their current prices, Granada is offering a multiple of just over 24 times to LWT shareholders, much in line with the p/e ratio of Granada's own shares while the cash offer is only 18 times. But the market seems determined to drive through TV mergers and curiously has strengthened Granada's hand, by awarding it a bid premium of its own.

### Geest

GEEST was never expected to prosper in 1993, a transitional year in the European banana market, but an attack of black sigatoka fungus has left its figures looking decidedly green.

The company's profit warning has the hallmarks of a clean-up job. It is arguable whether the effects of the fungus attack on the Costa Rican banana crop should be treated as an exceptional item in 1993 at all, particularly since it will mainly affect trading in the current year, curbing production by up to a fifth. After all, crop blight is an occupational hazard for a plantation owner.

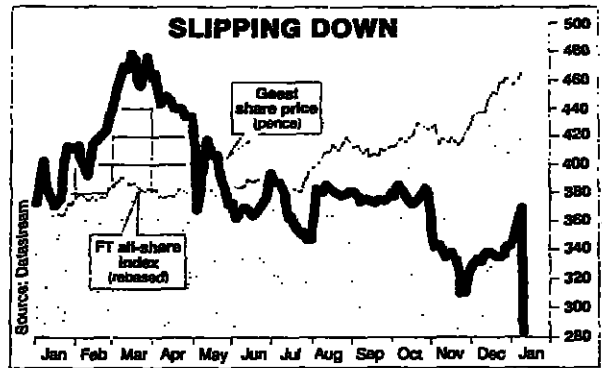
The group clearly hopes it will show an exaggerated recovery from the end of the year onward, uncluttered by lingering provisions, as the oversupply in the European banana market recedes.

Behind the figures there

are signs that the market is growing increasingly uncomfortable. Geest has ploughed £45 million into its new Costa Rica plantation, and has discovered the extra hazards of farming on its own account, rather than buying and shipping from the Windward Islands.

Geest has been adept for years at exploiting the political situation which has traditionally underpinned the

banana price. But the EC's promises to lift its quota of Latin American bananas further suggests that oversupply and low prices will not be cured tomorrow. Yesterday's fall in the share price increases the yield to 3.6 per cent, only marginally above the market average, which does not make the shares look cheap given the uncertainties in this stormy corner of world trade.



### Stakis

THE rapid recovery staged by Stakis in the past year should be a heartening sight for anyone who despaired of the hotel business after the collapse of Queens Moat Houses. The company has come back from near-destruction and is now earning operating margins of almost 20 per cent on its continuing businesses even though it is still suffering from the same low occupancy and discounted room rates that plague its rivals.

The key to Stakis' turnaround has been tight cost control and a squeeze on capital spending. This allowed the inherent cash generation of hotels and casinos to show through. The policy was so successful that Stakis even returned to the acquisition front in the summer, spending £16.3 million on a set of casinos and a hotel, and is in the market for further purchases. The group already has its eye on some of the better QMH hotels if they are all eventually put on the market.

Stakis should easily make £18 million this year, with plenty of room for further growth when occupancy fi-

nally recovers. At 75p, the shares trade on 16 times earnings which looks cheap for a proven recovery stock.

### Storehouse

FEW retailers will have had a better Christmas than Storehouse. Even accounting for new store openings, all its chains achieved double digit like-for-like sales growth. Figures like that are more akin to the adventurous 1980s than the abject 1990s.

Admittedly gross margins came under pressure during the run-up to Christmas given the aggressive level of discounting, but not so intensely that the group had to buy its sales growth. Much of it is a question of timing — more mark-downs before Christmas usually means fewer in the January sales period. Moreover, much of what is lost in gross margin can be recouped at the bottom line by the tight cost control Storehouse has become expert at.

All of this reinforces the expectation that Keith Edelman, chief executive, will raise the final dividend. The dividend, which was cut in 1990, has not increased since 1987.

On a prospective p/e of

about 20 times the shares are on a premium to the sector. But with strong sales momentum and further margin improvements to come, particularly at Mothercare, there are few better recovery stories in the retail sector.

### Grand Met

GRAND Metropolitan was understandably stung by the loss of its contract to distribute Absolut, a vodka brand it had built from almost nothing in the last 14 years. The damage to the pride of IDV, GrandMet's drinks business, was as painful as the loss of revenue. The acquisition of the Stolichnaya distribution deal from PepsiCo mitigates the injury to both.

Stolichnaya competes in the same premium market as Absolut, but plays second fiddle, with less than a third of the sales. From the start of February, IDV must begin the difficult task of competing against the competitor it created. One marketing point it may use is that Stolichnaya is a rarity in the world of vodka — it is the genuine article from Russia. Absolut's Swedish heritage made it a bit of an imposter, a fact always concealed in its marketing.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Setting growth of Deals on wheels

FRESH back from an extended honeymoon that took in Victoria Falls, Toronto and other exotic spots, Lord Linley and his bride, Serena Stanhope, turned up in less-glamorous Hammersmith, west London, last night, for the official opening of a new Deals restaurant. Lord Lichfield, his business partner, was on hand for the latest episode in what can only politely be described as "slow and cautious" expansion by Lachmead Group, set up under the Business Expansion Scheme in 1988. Lachmead has managed to launch just three Deals restaurants in six years — in Chelsea Harbour, West Soho and Hammersmith — and some BES investors have been unimpressed enough to grumble about poor returns. That may be about to change. The Sultan of Pahang, who hails from Malaysia and has a stake in Lachmead, is keen to take the Deals name to the Far East. On top of that, the peers are thinking of launching a range of branded food merchandise along the lines of Paul New-

man's salad dressing. "Patrick's Spicy Curry" is one possibility. The BES investors, it seems, will just have to be patient. "The thing is only five to six years old," says a spokesman. "They've got equity in a business that's going to make a lot of money." Roll on that day.

### Schwartz's search

VERY strange goings-on at Lehman Brothers yesterday, when Bernie Lever and Rod Schwartz, joint heads of equi-

ties, were placed in the curious position of telling the assembled staff that they had lost their jobs to an outsider. Well, this is not quite fair. What they actually said was that Alan Goodhill, who quit Morgan Stanley last year, has been made managing director and head of UK and European Equities, effectively demoting them. Lever remains head of trading, but the unfortunate Schwartz now has to try and decide whether there is anything else he can do internally. Lehman insists the affair was

handled in a friendly and civil manner.

### All change

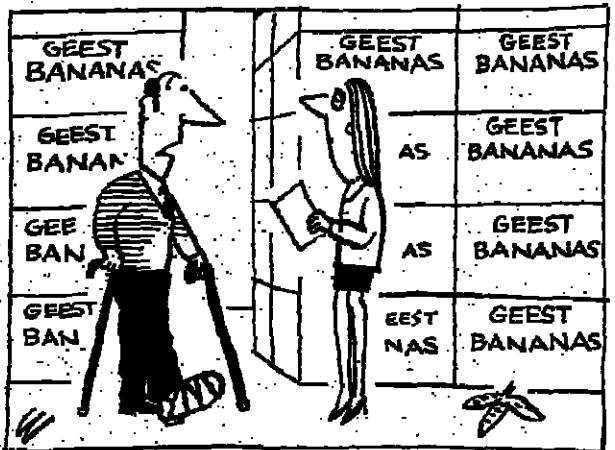
NATWEST Securities, meanwhile, has launched a market raid of its own in the wake of the departure of top property analysts Marc Gilbard and Graham Stanley, who are off to Goldman Sachs on a salary of £200,000 and £140,000 respectively. In a double swoop, it has poached Smith New Court's German team of Ernie Ferriday, Nuala Corry and Graham Moyes, rated three in Exel last year, and hired two derivatives experts to head a new structured products desk. Mark Barge, of Midland Equity Derivatives, and David Lloyd, of Actuna, — not to be confused with the tennis player — will report to Robert Mapstone, head of derivatives. "We are constantly looking for new sources of distribution," says Philip Augar, managing director of NatWest Securities. "When we see an opportunity to strengthen our business, we will take it." The Japanese, Americans and the Swiss appear to be paying ever greater amounts on research teams.

What's in a name? A firm of building contractors in the Nottingham area goes by the name of Budget & Scarper...

### Fed a line

FIRST cheap rates. Now biscuits. Keebler, the US cookies to crackers company owned by United Biscuits, has linked up with MCI Communications, America's second largest long distance telephone company, to offer 15 minutes free long distance time to anyone who buys two packets of Keebler's Munchkins, Wheatables, Club or Townhouse. The cost of the purchases is between \$1.79 and \$2.39. The idea is to convert talkative munchers into permanent customers. MCI, which competes with AT&T and Sprint for US customers, is about to get \$4.3 billion of British Telecom backing. Those who sign get a further \$20 of long distance calls and \$5 worth of coupons redeemable against Keebler products. But each customer can call only once, no matter how many Munchkins they can get through.

JON ASHWORTH



"Slipped on a profits warning"

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\* Yield expressed as CAR compound











# Bricks, mortar and love at first sight

Rachel Kelly  
discovers the  
dream home  
formula

For all the despair that has accompanied the worst housing market recession since the war, some lucky homeowners managed to acquire their ideal home during the year. What makes a dream home? The Times has asked readers to describe in their words the formula. They have all put their money where their dreams are. The three houses described here were all snapped up within days of coming on the market in the past year.



Robin and Catherine Malkin outside Fulving Mill House, near Leeds, Kent, which brought the Malkins home from the Haute-Savoie, France, because of its tranquil valley setting and winding river

**ROBIN and Catherine Malkin** fell in love with Fulving Mill House, near Maidstone, Kent. They immediately made an offer near the £375,000 asking price.

We lived in France for six years and it was with some trepidation that we moved back to England last year. We sold our chalet in Mégeve in the Haute-Savoie, a beautiful area with views of snow-capped mountains, including Mont Blanc, and felt we would never find a house in England to compare. However, the British education system beckoned.

A year later and still in rented accommodation, we were on the point of despair, having badgered every estate agent in Kent and having scoured the whole of the country.

Finally, in August, on return from our summer holiday, we saw Fulving Mill House, the details of which more or less fitted our requirements: five bedrooms, three bathrooms and a few acres. We were, by now, quite cynical, having come up against motorways, projected rail links and ugly farm buildings all in close proximity to the numerous houses we had viewed. But our spirits rose as

we approached the property. Our eyes feasted on a tranquil valley with sheep grazing in the surrounding fields and a river gently winding its way through the garden with a wealth of wildlife: a perfect setting for an attractive timber-framed building.

The house was full of character. Inevitably, not all of it was to our taste, but it had the right "feel" — friendly and warm. After a second visit two days later to confirm our initial enthusiasm we had no hesitation in making an offer and no second thoughts.

Apart from its idyllic setting the house is, in an ideal location. The M20, which cannot be seen or heard and which has now been finished, is only two minutes away with easy access to our business in Beckenham, to London where our two older children live and to Canterbury where our daughter is at school.

We moved in three weeks ago and although frustrated at having to wait for listed building consent before we can start any work, we are thrilled with the purchase. The kitchen is a disaster, the house lacks a garage and it's a long walk with the shopping over the river to the front door, but that's a small price to pay for such a lovely home.

**ANTHONY HORE** and his wife snapped up Clayhill Cottage, near Bury, Hampshire, weeks after their first visit. The Hores had friends in the area, and Mr Hore's parents used to live there. The four-bedroom cottage, which has two bathrooms, was on the market for £245,000.



The Hores fell in love at first sight with Clayhill Cottage

MY WIFE and I were lucky enough to find our house this summer within a matter of weeks of selling our old one, thanks to a combination of good fortune and perspicacity on the part of John D Wood & TONY WEBB

Co, who quickly divined our requirements.

First impressions are very important and, like love at first sight, sometimes decisive. True, it was a lovely sunny day when we first came here but we sensed at once that this was a bright and happy place — a view confirmed on our second visit when it poured with rain. But by then we knew that the house faced south, had a sun trap of a garden and enjoyed splendid views over the open forest.

The right location is probably the most important thing to be taken into account. Even the loveliest house would scarcely attract if it were built in the middle of a power station. Thus we had to ask ourselves whether the house was far enough away from some pretty notorious tourist traps. But it was quiet and secluded enough without being too remote. It was within striking distance of the amenities of modern civilisation — shops, restaurants, theatres at Ringwood, New Milton and Lymington, with good road and rail links.

Neither the house nor the garden was so large as to make impossible demands on one's time or temper and there was enough space to store things — be they books, garden tools or spare linen. These are the things that matter.

**CAROLINE EVANS**, an accountant and David Mitans, an architect, have just bought Wistaria House, in Myrtle Road, London W3. They saw it on sale for £195,000, in the window of Winkworth on a wet Saturday afternoon, viewed it on Monday and put in an offer immediately.



Wistaria House was snapped up within hours by the buyers

**INSTANT OFFER**

Our attraction to Wistaria House was immediate and unequivocal the moment we saw the photograph in the agent's window. The picture showed a fine Victorian brick house with double bay win-

dows and a painted entrance porch and the accompanying text described a completely refurbished house with bags of space and a handful of features — we were bitten.

A brief telephone call by the agent arranged a viewing and 20 minutes later we were at the house. We were not disappointed. The viewing confirmed our initial reaction. The house had been comprehensively and imaginatively refurbished by the vendors, both interior decorators.

There are three double bedrooms, the master bedroom has a "secret" en suite bathroom accessible through a door disguised to look like a bookcase, and a family bathroom upstairs. Downstairs, the reception room is 37ft long with three large bay windows giving plenty of daylight and a sense of openness which we were looking for.

Our offer was made and accepted within one hour of business the next day and all efforts were made to reach a quick exchange with completion on November 26. We soon discovered that the house had only been on the market for a few hours.

The weekend that we moved in was very cold and this was final vindication, if any was needed, for not pursuing our original intention of buying a rundown property without the basic essentials.

The famous picture-postcard village of Cockington, near Torquay, Devon, is being sold by the Prudential Corporation, which bought it 46 years ago. The medieval thatched village, which has a population of about 50 in 20 homes, drew about one million visitors in 1964, but the number has now dropped to about 310,000 annually.

The village is being sold in stages, on 999-year leases, through Waycotts, Torquay estate agents. In the first phase, six sitting tenants have bought their cottages. Terms have been agreed for two more at between £40,000 and £90,000, says Bruce Pell, a Prudential spokesman.

A barn at Cary's Farm, offered for £60,000 to £70,000, has been sold. After conversion and rebuilding, there will be two cottages, a studio apartment and a one-bedroom bungalow for sale. Another disused barn with permission for conversion to three homes is under offer at about £125,000, reduced from £160,000 last spring.

The much-photographed Forge, Rose Cottage, the Estate Office and Court Cottage, which are clustered around the central square and have a joint sitting tenant, are also for sale. The first three are run as gift shops, although Rose Cottage could be converted into a home. Court Cottage is the

## Picture-postcard village for sale

Cockington has lost none of its charm but a lot of its tourists



Thatched charm: a view of the ancient village of Cockington

home of the tenant, Robin Emdon. The lease for the four was first offered to Mr Emdon, 28, whose family have run the shops since 1976. His current lease runs until 1998. But he has been in dispute with the Prudential, because, he says, it wants 100 per cent more than an independent valuation he commissioned.

He says: "They seem to think Cockington is a large honey-pot, and don't seem to realise that it's not still like it was in the Sixties. We're feeling the recession like anyone else. We couldn't pay a price that was grossly inflated. We felt our accounts proved the price asked wasn't achievable on our terms."

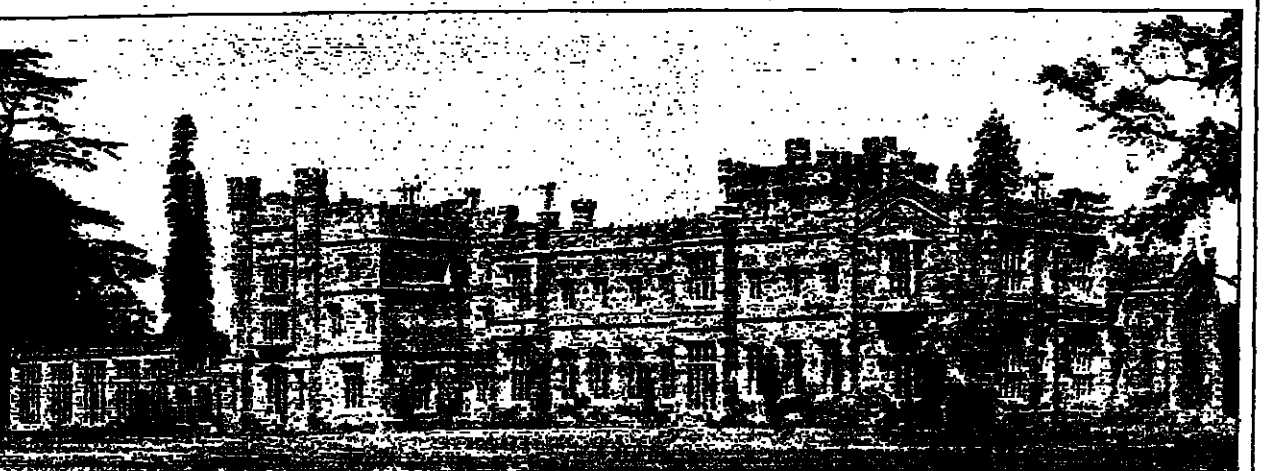
But Mr Pell says: "The Prudential's valuation was also independent, carried out by Waycotts who have dealt with properties in Cockington for a very long time. We've given Mr Emdon every opportunity to come up with a constructive response to the properties which he tenants, including splitting them up." Negotiations are continuing with some agreement on the principal terms, says Mr Pell.

Cockington was mentioned in the Domesday Book and it is thought some of the buildings are of Saxon origin. The Forge dates from the 11th century. The long leaseholds, at peppercorn rent, are subject to conditions to prevent changes to the buildings so that the village can be conserved for a further 1,000 years.

Most of the village was offered for sale in 50 lots in 1946, but the local authority in Torquay was worried about it being fragmented. Some Prudential offices were evacuated to Torquay during the Second World War, and the company was asked to step in. It did, paying the Cockington Trust, which owned the village, £100,000.

The Prudential says that the village no longer fits its investment portfolio.

**CHRISTINE WEBB**  
Waycotts, 5 Fleet Street, Torquay, Devon (0803 212531)



January's biggest sale so far: the Hampton Court estate in the West Country, on sale for £2 million

## Cut-price English castle

A CASTLE in Hereford and Worcester, originally on the market for £5 million, has just had its price reduced by £3 million, Rachel Kelly writes.

The Hampton Court estate, with a Grade I listed castle and 1,000 acres, went up for sale two years ago but failed to attract a buyer. Agent Knight Frank & Rutley hopes that the dramatic price reduction will ensure a quick sale.

The castle, parts of which date from the

15th century, is built around a central courtyard. The main section has 12 bedrooms, a suite of formal rooms including the principal dining room, which can seat 36, a 40-ft drawing room, billiard room, and a secondary dining room. There is also an indoor swimming pool, squash court, gymnasium, sauna, and a further 22 bedrooms. The estate has a pheasant shoot, fallow deer stalking, and trout fishing.

Tony Morris-Eyton, from Knight Frank, says: "Hampton Court is the epitome of the traditional English country estate." He says overseas buyers are showing interest, attracted by the "social and political stability of the UK". "English farmland can offer significant tax benefits," Mr Morris-Eyton adds. "Assets can be rolled over from the sale of business into farmland free of capital gains tax."

## PROPERTY

<p><b>RENTALS</b></p> <p><b>A.M.A. INTERNATIONAL</b> Ltd. try flat for long, short or holiday let. 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/7, 1/8, 1/9, 1/10, 1/11, 1/12, 1/13, 1/14, 1/15, 1/16, 1/17, 1/18, 1/19, 1/20, 1/21, 1/22, 1/23, 1/24, 1/25, 1/26, 1/27, 1/28, 1/29, 1/30, 1/31, 1/32, 1/33, 1/34, 1/35, 1/36, 1/37, 1/38, 1/39, 1/40, 1/41, 1/42, 1/43, 1/44, 1/45, 1/46, 1/47, 1/48, 1/49, 1/50, 1/51, 1/52, 1/53, 1/54, 1/55, 1/56, 1/57, 1/58, 1/59, 1/60, 1/61, 1/62, 1/63, 1/64, 1/65, 1/66, 1/67, 1/68, 1/69, 1/70, 1/71, 1/72, 1/73, 1/74, 1/75, 1/76, 1/77, 1/78, 1/79, 1/80, 1/81, 1/82, 1/83, 1/84, 1/85, 1/86, 1/87, 1/88, 1/89, 1/90, 1/91, 1/92, 1/93, 1/94, 1/95, 1/96, 1/97, 1/98, 1/99, 1/100, 1/101, 1/102, 1/103, 1/104, 1/105, 1/106, 1/107, 1/108, 1/109, 1/110, 1/111, 1/112, 1/113, 1/114, 1/115, 1/116, 1/117, 1/118, 1/119, 1/120, 1/121, 1/122, 1/123, 1/124, 1/125, 1/126, 1/127, 1/128, 1/129, 1/130, 1/131, 1/132, 1/133, 1/134, 1/135, 1/136, 1/137, 1/138, 1/139, 1/140, 1/141, 1/142, 1/143, 1/144, 1/145, 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## Power to examine report on adopters

**Manchester City Council v T and Another**

Before Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Peter Gibson (Judgment December 21)

Where a local authority sought a care order with a view to placing a child with specific prospective adopters, section 42(1)(b) of the Children Act 1989 entitled the guardian *ad litem* to examine and take copies of Form F, a case record prepared by the authority giving detailed information concerning the prospective adopters. Further, section 42(2)(a) gave the guardian the right to include relevant information from Form F in his report to the court.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing T's appeal by his guardian *ad litem* against an order made on July 23 by Mrs Justice Brackenbury, who held that the guardian was not entitled to a sight of Form F and made a care order in respect of T in favour of the local authority.

The Court of Appeal affirmed the case to the High Court for a reconsideration of the matter following the guardian's inspection of the relevant Form F and his preparation of a further report, and made an interim care order for the maximum permissible period of four weeks.

Miss Diana Eaglestone for T; Mr Ernest Ryder for the local authority.

**LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE** said that proceedings on an application for a care order were within the meaning of "specified

proceedings" as defined by section 41(6)(a) of the Children Act 1989. So T's guardian *ad litem*, who had been appointed under section 41(1), had been under a duty to safeguard T's interests in the manner prescribed by the Family Proceedings Rules (SI 1991 No 952) (see section 41(2)(b)).

Section 42 provided, so far as relevant: "(1) Where a person has been appointed as a guardian *ad litem* under this Act he shall have the right at all reasonable times to examine and take copies of . . . (b) any other records of, or held by, a local authority which were compiled in connection with any functions which stand referred to their social services committee under the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, so far as those records relate to that child.

"(2) Where a guardian *ad litem* takes a copy of any record which he is entitled to examine under this section, that copy or any part of it shall be admissible as evidence of any matter referred to in any . . . (a) report which he makes to the court in the proceedings in question; or (b) evidence which he gives in those proceedings.

"(3) Subsection (2) has effect regardless of any enactment or rule of law which would otherwise prevent the record in question being admissible in evidence."

When the local authority's application for a care order in respect of T had come before the court, the judge had had the option of making a care order or of making no order. If a care order were made it was the local authority's avowed intention to

remove T from his short-term foster mother and place him with the prospective adopters.

The guardian *ad litem*, in pursuance of his duty to safeguard T's interests, had therefore been required to report to the court upon the likely effect on T of living with the proposed adopters and how capable they would be of meeting T's needs.

He could fulfil that duty properly only if he was able to see the Form F relating to the prospective adopters. In his Lordship's judgment, section 42(1)(b) gave him the right to see and take copies of Form F, and section 42(2)(a) to include the relevant information derived from it in his report to the court.

The local authority had submitted that (a) Form F was a confidential document; and (b) to allow the guardian *ad litem*, and through him the court, to see Form F and possibly question the desirability of placing T with the prospective adopters would amount to an unwarranted interference with the local authority's care plan for T.

**Confidentiality** Undoubtedly Form F was a confidential record under regulation 14 of the Adoption Agencies Regulations (SI 1983 No 1064) and the guardian *ad litem* in care proceedings was not one of the persons to whom access was to be given, and information disclosed, under regulation 15.

However, section 42(1)(b) was quite clear in its terms, and section 42(3) made it clear that the guardian *ad litem* was entitled to use the information so acquired in his report or evidence to the court

considering the application for a care order "regardless of any enactment or rule of law which would otherwise prevent the record in question being admissible in evidence". Parliament could not have made its intentions clearer.

It followed that his Lordship did not agree with the following passage from the judgment of Mrs Justice Brackenbury: "I am satisfied that under the adoption legislation the local authority does not have the power or privilege to waive confidentiality and the Children Act has not in any way affected the operation of the Adoption Act in respect of disclosure and confidentiality."

In performing his or her primary duty to safeguard the interests of the child, the guardian *ad litem* would be fully conscious that the child's interests would often require that the identity of the prospective adopters should remain confidential and that nothing should be contained in the report which might reveal that identity to other parties, in particular the child's natural parents.

**Interference with care plan** It was generally the case that, subject to exceptions, the court had no power to interfere with a local authority's plan for a child in its care under a care order.

However, in the instant case the issue before the judge was not whether the court should or should not interfere with the local authority's plan, but whether the court should refuse to make a care order because of the identity of the persons with whom the local

authority proposed to place the child, the court always had the right to refuse to make the order: it was not a rubber stamp.

Thus, to take a highly improbable scenario: suppose that it emerged that the local authority proposed to place the child with individuals who had convictions for indecently assaulting a child of the same age and sex as the child to be placed with them. A court might well take the view that in such a case it would be better to make no order, even though that might have the effect of leaving the child in limbo, at least temporarily.

Unless the guardian *ad litem* had access to Form F, the court would be denied the opportunity of considering whether the proposed placement was so unsuitable that it would be better to make no order than a care order which would lead to an unsuitable placement.

For the reasons given, his Lordship was satisfied that the judge had been wrong in her conclusion that the guardian *ad litem* was not entitled to see Form F in relation to the prospective adopters, and had been wrong to make a care order without the benefit of a report from the guardian *ad litem* about the making of a care order with his inevitable consequences that he would be placed with the prospective adopters. He would therefore allow the appeal.

**Solicitors:** Clifford, Atterley Edge; Mr Roy Ingham, Manchester.

## Converting fixed to floating charge

**In re New Bullas Trading Ltd**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Russell and Mr Justice Scott Baker (Judgment December 16)

A debenture agreement could lawfully provide for the creation of a fixed charge over the book debts of a company while those debts were uncollected and a floating charge over the proceeds paid into a specified bank account.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by 31 plc from Mr Justice Knox's judgment ([1993] BCLC 1389) on an application brought by the administrative receivers of New Bullas Trading Ltd, Mr Roger Griffiths and Mr Andrew Pearce, two partners in Ernst Young, for the determination of the true construction of a debenture.

Also joined as respondents to the appeal were the Inland Revenue, the Inland Revenue Commissioners, Customs and Excise, the Department of Employment and the Department of Social Security.

Clauses 3 and 4 of 31's debenture contained a charge by the company of different categories of assets with the payment to 31 of all monies received by the company to be paid. The assets included book debts and the charges thereon were created as fixed charges.

Condition 12 in the debenture provided that the company was to set up a bank account for the proceeds of the business, to be known as the "proceeds account". By clause 4, the company was to be paid into a specified bank account where it had to be paid or otherwise dealt with in accordance with any written directions given by the company. The company was to crystallise the security and in the absence of any written direction by 31 the sum paid in would be released from the fixed charge and become subject to the floating charge.

On November 12, 1991 the administrative receivers were appointed, an event on the happening of which the debenture specified the monies secured became immediately payable.

Proceeds from book debts were short of the claims of the company's preferential creditors. If the charge created by the debenture was a fixed charge then 31 plc would rank ahead of the preferential creditors and would be paid in full if it did not achieve that result. Section 40 of the Insolvency Act 1986 operated to reverse the order of priorities.

Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr T. D. Chivers for 31; Mr Laurence Henderson for the Inland Revenue and the other preferential creditors.

**LORD JUSTICE NOURSE** said that he who lent money to a trading company neither wished nor expected it to become insolvent. Its prosperous trading was the best assurance of the return of his money with interest.

But against an evil day he wanted the best security the company could give him consistently with its ability to trade. Hence the modern form of debenture which gave the lender a fixed charge over assets that the company did not need to deal with in the ordinary course of its business and a floating charge over those that it did.

An asset peculiarly problematical in that context was a book debt of the company. There being usually no need to deal with it before collection, it was at that stage a natural subject of the fixed charge. But once collected, the proceeds being needed for the conduct of the business, it became a natural subject of the floating charge.

While the company was a going concern, it was no less an advantage to the lender that the debt should be collected and the proceeds used in the business.

But on insolvency, a crystallised floating charge on proceeds, which, in the event supposed, were all the more likely to have been dissipated, might be worthless; whereas a fixed charge enabling the lender to intercept payment to the company might be of real value.

Mr Sumption submitted to the court, although apparently not to Mr Justice Knox, that the effect of

condition 12 was to create a fixed charge over book debts while they were uncollected and a floating charge over their proceeds, there being no legal objection to their being treated in that fashion.

The question, that depended on the true construction of condition 12, was whether the law allowed the parties to make such an agreement.

For the Revenue it was submitted that the distinction drawn between the book debts before collection and after realisation was unrealistic and artificial because a debt was worth nothing unless and until it was turned into money. It was of the essence of a fixed charge, it was said, that the asset was appropriated to the charge from the beginning and that it could not be released from it without the consent of the chargee.

The answer to the Revenue's case was that here the asset did not cease to be subject to the fixed charge at the will of the company. It ceased to be so because both parties had determined that if the proceeds of a book debt were paid into the specified account at a time when no directions had been given it should thereupon be released.

The matter was governed by a clear agreement of the parties. Unless there was some authority or principle of law which prevented them from agreeing what they had agreed, their agreement had to prevail.

**Talbot v Official Receiver** ([1888] 13 App Cas 523, 543, 545) supported the view that just as it was open to contracting parties to provide for a fixed charge on future book debts, so it was open to them to provide that they should be subject to a fixed charge while they were uncollected and a floating charge on realisation.

Mr Sumption's submission should be accepted. The charge over book debts of the company as created by the debenture was, unless and until their proceeds were paid into the specified account, a valid fixed charge.

**Solicitors:** Lawrence Graham; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

critics for spring

## Disciplinary enquiry would be prejudicial to action

**Regina v Institute of Chartered Accountants and Others, Ex parte Brindle and Others**

Before Lord Justice Nolan, Lord Justice Hirst and Sir Roger Parker (Judgment December 21)

It would be prejudicial and unfair for a disciplinary enquiry set up by

the Institute of Chartered Accountants into the conduct of Price Waterhouse as auditors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International to go ahead until the conclusion at first instance of an enquiry brought against them by the bank's liquidator.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Mr Ian

Brindle and other partners in Price Waterhouse against the refusal of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Sedley) on July 27, 1993 to grant judicial review of decisions by the Institute of Chartered Accountants to refer to its joint disciplinary tribunal the conduct of Price Waterhouse and about its services to BCCI.

Mr David Oliver, QC and Mr Nigel Gillin for Price Waterhouse; Mr Robert Carrivick, QC and Mr John Howell, QC, for the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

**LORD JUSTICE NOLAN** said that from June 1987 the appellants had coordinated audits for BCCI, whose collapse on June 5, 1991 had led to civil proceedings against them by the liquidator and a number of BCCI creditors. It had also led indirectly to the disciplinary proceedings, consisting in the establishment of an enquiry committee headed by Sir John Bailey, a former Treasury Solicitor.

The applicants requested suspension of the enquiry until the first stage of the English civil proceedings had been completed. They also challenged the ICA's refusal to conduct the enquiry under non-disciplinary provisions which came into existence in January 1993, which were of an

adversarial character, the present enquiry being inquisitorial. His Lordship also listed other actions falling Price Waterhouse in the English and American courts.

It was common ground that the stage would be reached by reference to whether or not it produced a real risk of prejudice or injustice. Mr Oliver had submitted that there was a grave risk of serious injustice if proceedings went ahead immediately.

He developed his submission under three heads: disclosure of documents, prejudice to the trial process, the generation of documents discoverable in the litigation, coincidence of issues and strain on resources.

In the Divisional Court, Lord Justice Mann had held that none of the heads gave rise to a serious risk of injustice, so an amalgam of the heads could not do so either.

The critical question was whether the continuation at that stage would delay, impede and prejudice the appellants in the conduct of their defence to the civil proceedings to an extent which could not be justified in the public interest.

If the committee went ahead it would be conducting a complex matter under a procedure which was unhelpful for the applicants.

It was not a case where it could be expected that the enquiry would be completed promptly and it must have a delaying and distracting effect on the other proceedings in which the appellants were involved.

The allegations were not allegations of misconduct and the appellants had assisted the authorities throughout. In addition, there were positive advantages in the committee having the assistance of the findings of fact made by a court.

The ICA had demonstrated by bringing the disciplinary action that it would act swiftly to investigate the conduct of members in high profile cases where there was public concern over auditors' performance.

The appeal would be allowed and the disciplinary proceedings with the disciplinary hearings. The question whether the enquiry should be held under the new or the old scheme could be determined when the enquiry recommenced.

**LORD JUSTICE MANN** and **SIR ROGER PARKER** said the enquiry should be held under the new rather than the old procedure but otherwise agreed.

**Solicitors:** Herbert Smith; Bates Wells & Braithwaite.

## Counselling services are eligible

**Regina v North Cornwall District Council, Ex parte Singer**

Before Lord Justice Mann, Lord Justice Hirst and Sir Roger Parker (Judgment December 21)

General counselling and other support services provided by a landlord in person were not ineligible service charges within the meaning of Schedule 1 to the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1971) even if the landlord

did not spend the majority of his time providing services connected with the provision of adequate accommodation.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Roch and Mr Justice Sedley) so held in a reserved judgment on December 16 allowing applications by three people who were all suffering from mental illness and living in private rented accommodation, for judicial review of the decisions of the housing benefit review board of North Cornwall District Council in 1991 and 1992, to exclude from

their entitlement to housing benefit the service charges paid by them in respect of counselling and support services provided by their landlords in person.

**MR JUSTICE SEDLEY** said that the court's construction of the language used in paragraph 1(4) of Schedule 1 and produced a result which did not offend against the policy of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992. The council which the local authority retained was obliged to exercise guarded against abuse.

**Solicitors:** Humphreys & Co; Brink; Hammond Sudgates.

## Patents County Court transfer

**Chaplin Patents Holdings Company plc v Group Lotus plc and Another**

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Waite (Judgment December 17)

In exercising his discretion whether to transfer a case to the High Court, the judge of the Patents County Court should bear in mind that that court had been established as a means of making patent litigation cheaper, simpler and more accessible so that smaller enterprises and private individuals could sue and be sued in respect of innovation by the potential cost of litigation to safeguard their rights.

The Court of Appeal so said dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Group Lotus plc and Lotus Cars Ltd from Judge Ford, sitting in the Patents County Court, who had refused their application for transfer to the High Court of the action brought against them by Chaplin Patents Holdings Company plc for infringement of three patents in respect of an active noise attenuation system relating to motor vehicles.

Mr Simon Thorley, QC, for the defendants; Mr Henry Carr for the plaintiff.

**THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS** said the plaintiff had issued proceedings in the Patents County Court in December 1992.

Its statement of case was by most standards a substantial document running to nearly 40 pages with 15 appendices comprising nearly 200 pages. The defendants' defence and counterclaim was less lengthy, comprising 18 pages and a confidential schedule of 23 pages and 6 appendices, supplemented by their particulars of objections of another 14 pages.

The high national and international reputation of the Patents County Court, specialised court within the Chancery Division, had never been in question, but in the 1980s it came to be felt that the problems of delay and complexity discouraged and perhaps prevented smaller enterprises from pursuing legitimate patent claims.

Thought was given to means of making patent litigation cheaper, simpler and more accessible. The Patents Act 1988, to provide by order for limits of value in relation to any description of proceedings within the special jurisdiction of the Patents County Court had not been exercised, there was accordingly no financial ceiling to the value of claims which the Patents County Court might entertain.

Further, the power to order transfer of proceedings to the High Court was reserved to the Patents County Court itself. His Lordship referred to section 28(2) of the 1988 Act which gave guidance on the exercise of the discretion to transfer: namely that consideration of both parties' financial position was required and a case raising an important question of fact or law need not necessarily be transferred to the High Court.

Read together with article 7(5) of the High Courts and County Courts Jurisdiction Order (SI 1991 No 724 (L5)) the provisions indicated quite clearly how the discretion to transfer should be exercised by the judge of the Patents County Court.

He was to have regard to the financial position of the parties; he was not obliged to transfer where important questions of fact or law were likely to be raised, but subject to that, he should bear in mind that the Patents County Court was established to handle smaller, shorter, less complex, less important, lower value actions.

It was to provide, cheaper, simpler and more accessible, to ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises and private individuals were not deterred from innovation by the potential cost of litigation to safeguard their rights. Subject to the rule referred to longer, heavier, more complex, more valuable actions continued to belong in the High Court.

His Lordship referred to the present case where the plaintiff had acknowledged that it was capable of funding High Court litigation. The judge had concluded that costs would not be significantly increased if the action were transferred.

He had also concluded that the case was not so complex that none of the heads gave rise to a serious risk of injustice, so an amalgam of the heads could not do so either.

The critical question was whether the continuation at that stage would delay, impede and prejudice the appellants in the conduct of their defence to the civil proceedings to an extent which could not be justified in the public interest.

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The ICA had demonstrated by bringing the disciplinary action that it would act swiftly to investigate the conduct of members in high profile cases where there was public concern over auditors' performance.

The appeal would be allowed and the disciplinary proceedings with the disciplinary hearings. The question whether the enquiry should be held under the new or the old scheme could be determined when the enquiry recommenced.

**LORD JUSTICE MANN** and **SIR ROGER PARKER** said the enquiry should be held under the new rather than the old procedure but otherwise agreed.

**Solicitors:** Herbert Smith; Bates Wells & Braithwaite.

**McDonald and Another v Graham** Before Lord Justice Ralph Gibson, Lord Justice Evans and Sir David Croom-Johnson (Judgment December 16)

A purposive approach should be adopted by legal advisers to the special jurisdiction given to the Patents County Court by section 287 of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 and by the powers exercised under that Act by the Lord Chancellor.

The category of claims "arising out of or in connection with the design of a product" was to be construed sensibly and widely drawn. The support and cooperation of the parties was essential if the newly established court was to achieve its object of dealing with proceedings expeditiously and with the minimum of expense.

The Court of Appeal so stated in reserved judgments when dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Mr Keith Graham, in a copyright claim brought by the plaintiffs, Mr George McDonald and 21 Industries Ltd, against interlocutory relief that included an Anton Piller (designation and jurisdiction) order and a Mareva (asset-freezing) injunction granted by Judge Peter Ford sitting in the Patents County Court in May 1993.

Section 287 of the 1988 Act, headed "Patents County Courts: Special Jurisdiction", provides: "(1) The Lord Chancellor may by order made in statutory instrument designate any county court as a Patents County Court and confer on it jurisdiction (its 'special jurisdiction') to hear and determine such descriptions of proceedings . . . (a) relating to patents or designs; or (b) ancillary to, or arising out of the same subject matter as, proceedings relating to patents or designs, as may be specified in the order."

By the Patents County Court (Designation and Jurisdiction) Order (SI 1990 No 1496) Edmonstone County Court was designated as a Patents County Court with jurisdiction "to hear and determine any action or matter relating to patents or designs over which the High Court would have jurisdiction, together with any claims or matters ancillary thereto or arising therefrom."

Mr Arthur Ashton for the defendant; Miss Fiona Clark for the plaintiffs.

**LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON** said that the defendant appealed on the ground, *inter alia*, that the Patents County Court had no power to entertain the copyright claim within its special jurisdiction.

Further it was contended that if it did have jurisdiction, it had no power to make either the Anton Piller or Mareva injunctions by reason of the County Court Remedies Regulations (SI 1991 No 1222).

The defendant submitted that the special jurisdiction did not extend to the copyright claim because it did not relate to patents or designs and was not a claim ancillary to or arising out of the design of a product.

The judge had found the first defendant to be in breach of

the copyright claim because it did not relate to patents or designs and was not a claim ancillary to or arising out of the design of a product. It was said, being usable under the 1988 Act to make the orders appealed against, had no power to make them under the ordinary jurisdiction of the county court.

Judge Ford had held that the case fell within the special jurisdiction of the county court, only "arising out of or in connection with the design of a product" within the meaning of the 1988 Act. Further, he said that the purpose of creating the new court was to enable patent and design jurisdiction to be conferred on a county court that was previously only conferred on the High Court and it could not be assumed that it was intended that a litigant with various grounds of complaint arising out of the same set of circumstances should be denied the right to sue there on all or the same proceedings in the Patents County Court.

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## Purposive patents approach

**Beeco Ltd v Alfa Laval Co Ltd and Another**

Before Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Peter Gibson (Judgment December 21)

A plaintiff was not entitled to damages which he would have incurred by way of loss of profit on lost production during the period necessary to repair a defect in goods or materials supplied by a defendant and caused by his breach of contract where because of some supervening event those repairs were not carried out or were substituted in other more expensive repairs.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Alfa Laval Ltd, the first defendant, against an award by Judge Bowsher, QC, sitting as an official referee of damages to be assessed for the loss of profits consequent on the repair of a heat exchanger belonging to the plaintiffs, Beeco Ltd.

Mr Timothy Stow, QC and Miss Freya Newbery for the plaintiffs; Mr Brian Knight, QC and Mr Thomas Weitzman for the first defendant; the second defendant, Studeley Engineering Ltd, did not appear and was not represented.

**LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH** said the first defendant had been responsible for installing a heat exchanger at the plaintiffs' works in Bootle. A crack had appeared in the exchanger in August 1988 and in October it had exploded causing damage to equipment and economic loss in terms of lost production.

The judge had found the first defendant to be in breach of

the copyright claim because it did not relate to patents or designs and was not a claim ancillary to or arising out of the design of a product.

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Further, the claim for relief in respect of the alleged breaches of copyright was a claim ancillary to an action relating to the plaintiff's patent and, as such, also within the special jurisdiction.

**LORD JUSTICE EVANS**, agreeing, said that if the defendant was correct, the ancillary jurisdiction of the Patents County Court would be narrowly and artificially restricted. The judge adopted a purposive approach to the case and was entirely right to do so.

The category of ancillary claims should be sensibly and, if convenient, widely drawn. While not permitting unrelated matters to be introduced, that would prevent the need for two distinct sets of proceedings, where clearly the resulting duplication of costs would contradict the parliamentary intention which led to the creation of the special jurisdiction.

Judge Ford had a difficult and unenviable task in establishing a new court in an area of practice where large and important issues might be at stake and where the

saving of costs might not appear to be the primary object of the parties, or of one of the parties, in some cases at least.





## TELEVISION page 34

Whinging without foundation: is the quality of British architecture really under threat?

## ARTS

## THEATRE page 35

Stomping at Sadler's Wells: a percussive extravaganza arrives with a bang in London



From Spielberg to Schnittke, from Puccini to Picasso: a guide to the hottest tickets of the coming season

## Critics' tips for the spring term

For most of his long and prodigiously inventive career, Picasso made sure that his sculpture was virtually unknown. Seldom exhibited, and hoarded by the artist himself, it remained almost a secret until the mid-1960s. Then, in a revelatory show at the Petit Palais in Paris, the full extent of his sculptural achievement was displayed for the first time. It proved that his three-dimensional work was just as revolutionary as his painting.

But the relationship between the two media in his output as a whole has never been properly explored. So the Tate Gallery's "Picasso: Sculptor & Painter" promises to be a major delight (Feb 16-May 8). Some 200 sculptures, paintings, drawings and ceramics will prove their continually enriching interplay throughout his life. Ranging from Cubist constructions to welded iron pieces and late, painted sheet-metal works, the sculpture will at last be given its rightful place at the very centre of his oeuvre.

The Tate's show, which promises to be the biggest crowd-puller of the season, kicks off the Spanish Arts Festival in London. Then, a month later, the Festival

presents one of Picasso's greatest forerunners at the Royal Academy. "Goya: Truth and Fantasy" (March 17-June 12, held in association with *The Times*) will be his first major British exhibition for nearly 30 years. Arriving in London after its first airing at the Prado in Madrid, the show focuses on 100 of Goya's small-scale paintings. Starting with early oil studies for the Spanish Royal Tapestry Factory, the mood of decorative playfulness then gives way to more dramatic, darker, denser Shipwreck, brigades, bull-fights and witchcraft fill the later pictures with astonishing vitality. And the final miniatures on ivory prove that the ageing Goya retained his fertility to the end.

Unbridled Spanish fantasy erupts again at the Hayward Gallery, where "Salvador Dalí: The Early Years" will doubtless come second only to Picasso in popularity (March 3-May 29). By concentrating on his work of the 1920s alone, the survey mercifully ignores the appalling deterioration in Dalí's later work. His early career has never been fully

examined, and the Hayward show promises to illuminate the precocious development of the charismatic showman whose first Paris exhibition, in 1916, established him as the most controversial Surrealist of them all.

A far more serene mood prevails at the National Gallery, where "Claude Lorraine: The Poetic Landscape" will surely prove delectable (Jan 26-April 10). His immense popularity with 18th-century British collectors means that many of his finest canvases are still preserved in this country. By concentrating on the subjects of Claude's paintings, the exhibition aims at restoring the full meaning to images often savoured simply as luminous panoramic views.

Light also plays a potent role in the work of Medardo Rosso, whose career will be examined at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (Feb 25-April 24). Once almost as celebrated as Rodin, the Italian sculptor was eclipsed with the boisterous arrival of the Futurists. But his bronzes and almost-melting wax pieces, described in the 1890s as "impressionism in sculpture", deserve to be reassessed in this timely survey.

RICHARD CORK

No doubt about it: a feast of entertainment lies ahead for music-lovers with a penchant for Schnittke, Chabrier, and Taverne, massed saxophones, and José Carreras singing the greatest hits of Mario Lanza. Those who maintain that our concert-life is getting dull will surely take fresh heart.

The first three gentlemen are all the subjects of mini-festivals in London. Alfred Schnittke, the quirky Russian composer, is 60 this year, and the Royal Academy of Music celebrates his ironic, quot-

non-studied works from March 22 to 25. John Tavener, from whose artistic personality the concept of irony is entirely absent, is given a BBC festival (Jan 21-24) that spreads from the Barbican to Westminster Abbey and Cathedral. Those are apt venues for music which, from such early pieces as the *Celtic Requiem* to the recent cult success, *The Protecting Veil*, is almost wholly concerned with religious experience.

In complete contrast, the music of Emmanuel Chabrier (who died 100 years ago) is

hedonistic, delicious, champagne in sound. The festival at the South Bank Centre from February 8 to 10 is anchored with a performance of his opera *Bellefleur*, but there are plenty of rarer gems waiting for discovery here. My only regret is that they have not programmed Chabrier's quadrilles on tunes from Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*.

Other composers in the spotlight soon: Oliver Knussen and Mark-Anthony Turnage are the focus of a weekend's music-making by the excellent Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (April 15-17); Italian avant-garde veteran Luciano Berio conducts the Halle Orchestra in the British premiere of his *Epiphany* in Manchester on April 28; and the same orchestra teams up with American minimalist John Adams for an intriguing all-American concoction of Cage, Gershwin and Adams on April 26.

Vocal events to note include three concerts by Jesse Norman with the London Symphony Orchestra (March 14, 17, 21), and Ute Lemper, the svelte German cabaret singer, performing *Well's Seven Deadly Sins* in Birmingham (Jan 28) and the Festival Hall, London (Jan 29). José Carreras tribute to Mario Lanza is at the Albert Hall, London, on March 15. It was seeing Lanza in *The Great Caruso* that made the seven-year-old Carreras determined to become a singer. Or so legend has it.

Simon Rattle's ten-year *Towards the Millennium* series, celebrating each decade of the 20th century in turn, has reached the Thirties. Weird and wonderful programmes now become possible: Hindemith, Copland, Roy Harris and Bartók, for instance, on March 3 (Birmingham) and March 4 (Festival Hall, London). The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra also performs Mahler's gargantuan Eighth Symphony under Mark Elder (Birmingham, Feb 3, 5).

Chamber-music event of the year is likely to be the all-Beethoven recital by violinist Gidon Kremer and pianist Martha Argerich (Festival Hall, Feb 28). Finally, those saxophones will be massing for attack in the Queen Elizabeth Hall on February 6, to mark the centenary of the death of Adolphe Sax, inventor of the beast. The line-up includes Andy Sheppard, John Harle and the Guildhall School Saxophone Orchestra.

RICHARD MORRISON



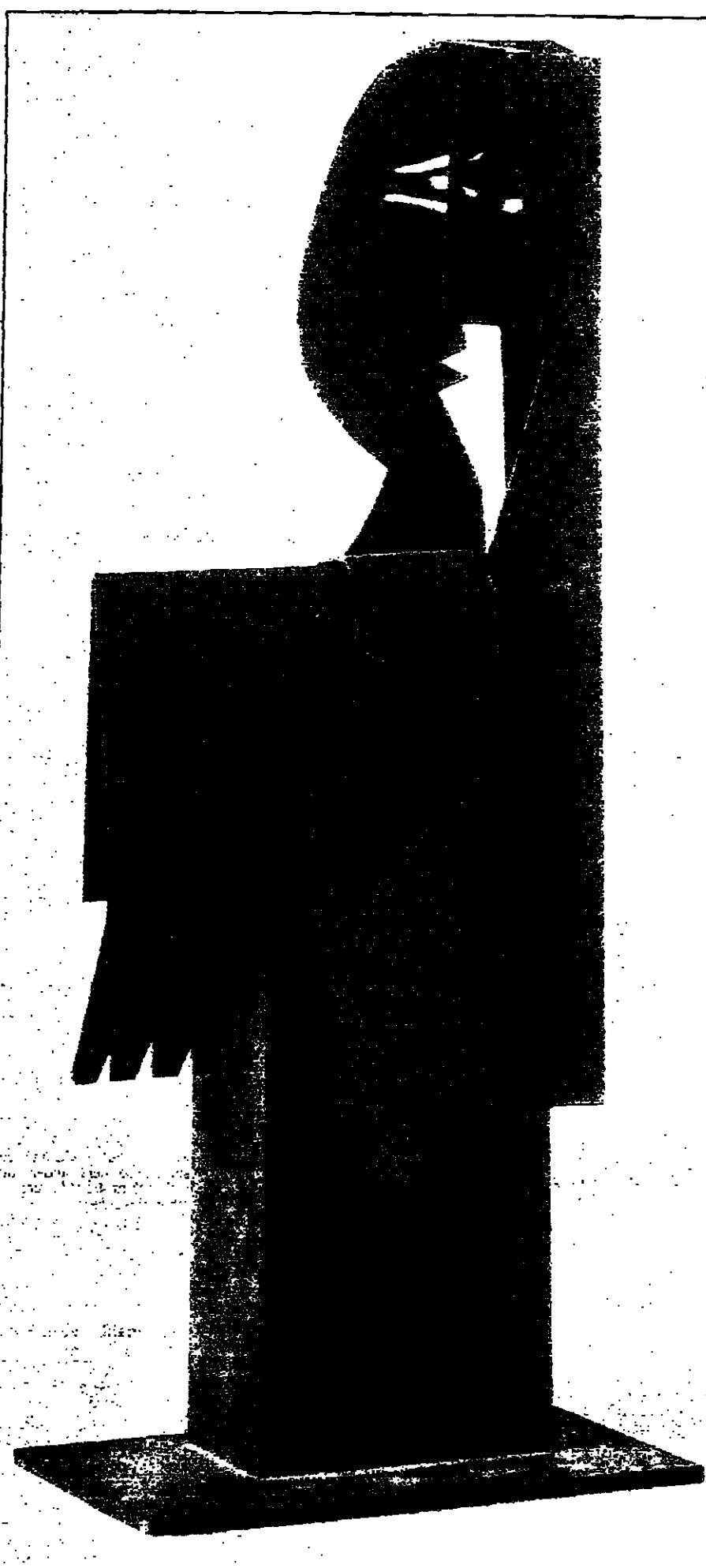
Rudolf Nureyev: a gala tribute from his friends

made for Strings (Birmingham Hippodrome, Feb 22). After visiting Liverpool, Sunderland and Northampton, *Serenade* plays at the Royal Opera House on a bill including Agnes de Mille's *Lizzie Borden* ballet Fall River Legend, starring Marion Tait. BRB's Covent Garden season (March 28-April 8) also brings the first London showings of David Bintley's *Sylvia*.

Scottish Ballet takes on *The Sleeping Beauty* for the first time in a production by Galina Samsova with costumes by Jasper Comran. It opens at Theatre Royal, Glasgow on March 10 and also plays at Aberdeen, Newcastle, Hull and Edinburgh.

For those who prefer contemporary dance, the choice is dauntingly prodigious. The Place Theatre is presenting more than 100 different groups in London (some of them at the South Bank Centre) in seasons running from now until early May. And in Glasgow, the season (New Moves Across Europe) offers a further 23 choreographers at the Tron and the Tramway (Jan 28-March 19).

JOHN PERCIVAL



A less familiar side of Picasso: his 1961 sculpture, *Standing Woman*, is included in the Tate's Picasso show, which will probably be the biggest crowd-puller this year

clear the decks for Hollywood's heavyweights. After largely eluding the autumn on piffle, distributors are finally releasing many of the films British moviegoers are most keen to see. The three hours and more of *Schindler's List* may not promise spectacle to lift winter's doldrums, but few should refuse the chance to watch what many are claiming is Spielberg's best serious film. Even American Jewish groups, critical of many Holocaust dramas, have been impressed.

Spielberg's version of Thomas Keneally's novel opens on February 18. By that time, we should have laughed our way through Woody Allen's *Mannahatta* Murder Mystery, a delectable romp without autobiographical angst or Mia Farrow, comparable in some ways to *The Ghost Breakers*. We should also have

revisited the Vietnam War with Oliver Stone in *Heaven and Earth*. This time the contentious maestro takes the native woman's angle, which is not one that comes naturally, and the strain shows.

Neither of these releases can compare, however, with *The Age of Innocence*, set for January 28. Everyone thought letting Martin Scorsese adapt an Edith Wharton novel was like making a bull the proprietor of a china shop. But we forgot Scorsese's fondness for lush romantic cinema like Visconti's *Senso*. You become sucked right into the ritualised world of 19th-century New York, where Daniel Day-Lewis's lawyer breaks the social code by dallying with Michelle Pfeiffer's free spirit. The film is sumptuous to the nth degree.

The same week Mrs Doubtfire arrives, the one big success of America's winter season. Chris Columbus's film

about an unemployed actor and disgraced husband masquerading as his own children's nanny promises sentimental mush about family life; but it also offers Robin Williams in a role capacious enough to accommodate all his comic fireworks. March brings *Short Cuts*. Fans of Robert Altman, and Raymond Carver's short stories, have been panting for this at least since September, when the epic of criss-crossing lives in crisis appeared at the Venice Film Festival. Carver purists have room for disappointment: with the tales locked into a jigsaw pattern, their individual rhythm gets lost. But nobody directs kaleidoscope scripts like Altman, and he extracts great things from the teeming cast.

So many big guns are fired during these months that the small art-house item will have a tough time getting noticed. Two deserve long queues. Tian Zhuangzhuang's *The Blue Kite* (at the ICA in February) chronicles one family's experiences under Chinese rule with great emotional penetration, domestic detail and unforced beauty. Watching *Farewell My Concubine*, you feel you are guzzling chocolates; this lovely film is calorie-controlled.

Another of last year's festival delicacies, *Scent of Green Papaya*, arrives on April 1. Tran Anh Hung's French-Vietnamese film charts the life of a servant girl working in a sweltering Saigon (triumphantly re-created in a Paris studio). The camera glides, the characters pose, all rather arty, but still a sight for sore eyes after a long winter.

GEOFF BROWN



Unlikely triumph: Martin Scorsese's lush, romantic adaptation of Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*

## THEATRE

Ever since her *Top Girls* — which began with a dinner party thrown by a thriving businesswoman for Pope Joan and other improbable guests — Caryl Churchill has had a reputation for odd, adventurous writing. That seems unlikely to be dented by her new play, *The Striker*, in which Kathryn Hunter plays a chameleon spirit bent on luring two girls down into the underworld. Not only will it give this inventive actress the opportunity to display her physical bravura while simultaneously talking like something from *Finnegans Wake*: the play comes with songs, dance, heaven knows what.

That opens at the National's Cottesloe on January 27, probably the most important single event in what promises to be a busy early spring. New or newish work in London includes John Godden's *April in Paris*, a tale of country mice on the razze which brings Gary Olsen to the Ambassadors on February 1; *Dead Funny* by Terry Johnson, author of *Hysteria*, opening at Hampstead on February 2; Sarah Daniels's *The Madness of Esme and Chaz*, at the Theatre Upstairs on February 15; and plays by the relatively untired Phyllis Nagy and Jonathan Harvey at the Almeida and Donmar respectively.

With all that on offer, maybe we critics won't be complaining so stridently about the preponderance of revivals. Yet they, too, have their place on the theatre schedules. In March, the National offers two pieces that flopped badly when they were first produced in, respectively, the London of 1938 and the Broadway of 1942: Harold Pinter's first full-length play, *The Birthday Party*, and Charles MacArthur's *Johnny on a Spot*, about attempts to suppress the news that a politician has expired in a brothel. Sounds ahead of its time, does it not?

Then again, the Almeida presents David Hare's version of Brecht's *Galileo* on February 9. Stephen Daldry comes from the triumph of *Macbeth* at the Lyttelton to see if there is juice, steam or anything else in Arnold Wesker's early *The Kitchen*, opening at the Royal Court on February 22. The RSC has

invited that estimable Japanese director, Yukio Ninagawa, to try his hand at Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* at the Barbican in early March. And Helen Mirren returns from Lynda La Plante's television copshop to the stage in Turgenev's *Month in the Country*, due in the West End late last month.

Out of town, too, revivals and adaptations have not completely ousted new work. Manchester's Royal Exchange presents Simon Burke's mystery, *The Lodger*, as well as David Threlfall as *The Count of Monte Cristo*. At Sheffield's Crucible there is Howard Barker's study of the doomed Romanovs, *Hated Nightfall*, and Michael Rudman's production of Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. At Nottingham



Helen Mirren: returns to the stage in Turgenev

Playhouse Tony Slattery plays a businessman trying to recover his lost youth in Tim Firth's *Neville's Island*, and at the Stephen Joseph, Scarborough, there's yet another Alan Ayckbourn play, *Communicating Doors*.

Musicals are hard to find, in or out of town. But Maxwell, the Musical Review, with tunes by Sullivan, is on course to open at the Criterion on February 21. John Seident plays what an already overheated publicity machine calls the "sham, swindler and charlatan of the century" and the "titanic buffoon of tycoons". All that remains is for the show to match the hype.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## OPERA

The green knight lives! *Gawain*, Birtwistle's mighty epic, is revived by the Royal Opera on April 14, and its many admirers will be on the qui vive spotting the tips and ticks that Sir Harry has made since the premiere three years ago. Most composers have had second thoughts about their operas, and nearly always for the better.

There are two new productions on offer at Covent Garden. The first night of Trevor Nunn's *Katya Kabanova* (March 4) also marks Bernard Haitink's 65th birthday; there will be cascading flowers, I'll be bound. The British premiere of Massenet's *Chérubin* is regally scheduled for St Valentine's Day, and the combination of this erotic boulevard comedy and the severe production team of Tim Albery and Antony McDonald should be heady. The title role is sung by the young American mezzo Susan Graham. Meanwhile another much-vaunted American mezzo, Denyce Graves, makes her Garden debut in the Carmen revival on January 21.

Two projects stand out in the ENO's spring season: the premiere of Judith Weir's Grimsby-based new opera, *Blond Eckbert*, on April 20, conducted by Sian Edwards; and the overdue return of Jonathan Miller to the scene of former triumphs with his new production of *Der Rosenkavalier* on February 2 — with a cast including Anne Evans, Sally Burgess and John Tomlinson.

The Welsh National has a new Turandot on February 12 with the exciting American soprano Mary Jane Johnson, conducted by Carlo Rizzi and produced by Christopher Alden (UK debut). Twin brother David Alden's controversial *Art of the Fugue* joins the Cardiff repertoire on February 24 (with Della Jones), and the famous *Boulez/Stein/Pelléas et Mélisande* is revived (Birmingham only) from March 19.

Scottish Opera ventures into a new performing space for the first time on February 15 with David Leveaux's production of *The Turn of the Screw*

at Glasgow's Tramway theatre, having launched the spring season with *Giles* (Citiz) *Havergal's* new staging of *L'elisir d'amore*, nicely cast (Cheryl Barker, Paul Charles Clarke, Simon Keenlyside, Claude Corbelli — Feb 11). There is a time-matching element on April 12 when Richard Armstrong conducts a new Peter Grimes with Anthony Rolfe Johnson, produced by Joachim Herz. Will the good Professor have mellowed since those dear dead 1970s?

Opera North's staging of Puccini's operetta *La rondine* marks the British debut of the



Galloping back: Harrison Birtwistle's opera *Gawain*

American producer Francesca Zambello on April 14, with the lovely Helen Field as the Heroine with a Past, and what promises to be a stimulating *Magie Flute* follows on April 30, produced by newcomer Annabel Arden. The company revives Phyllida Lloyd's deliciously sane production of *L'Elle* on January 20 to go on tour with Gloriana: catch both, if necessary the Britten at Covent Garden (Feb 7, 10), and the Chabrier in concert at the QEH (Feb 9).

And watch out for the South Bank's resident company, Opera Factory, which stages *The Rake's Progress* on April 22, conducted by Mark Wigglesworth and produced by genius loci David Freeman.

RODNEY MILNES











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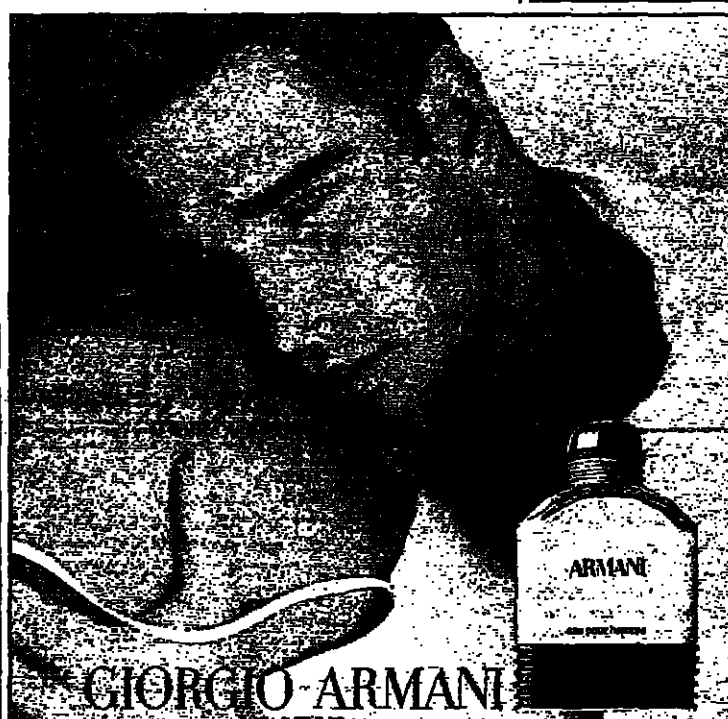
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Fax No. 071-706 3267

### MOORFIELDS EYE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SECRETARY

£11,937 - £14,101 inc p.a. (36 hours)  
We require a Medical Secretary with excellent typing and organisational skills to provide an efficient service to a busy department. Previous medical secretarial experience is essential.  
In return we can offer you excellent working conditions, a happy working atmosphere, training and an interest free season ticket loan offer after a qualifying period and temporary single accommodation.  
For an application form and a job description please contact the Personnel Department, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, EC1Y 2DQ on 071 253 3411 ext 2493 or 071 251 8554 (24 hour telephone).  
Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 26/1/94  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

### NEWS INTERNATIONAL PLC SECRETARY TO LEGAL MANAGER

Salary commensurate with age and experience  
We are seeking a professional secretary, preferably educated to A Level standard, with solid career history to provide full executive secretarial and administrative support to the Legal Manager.  
Ideal Requirements:  
• 100 wpm shorthand (essential), 60 wpm typing and working knowledge of Word Perfect for Windows  
• Ability to work on own initiative in a pressurised environment, common sense and excellent interpersonal skills.  
It is envisaged that anyone under the age of 30 will not have the necessary experience required.  
Applications in writing enclosing CV together with daytime telephone number to Brenda Hemmings, Recruitment Manager, News International Newspapers Limited, PO Box 481, Virginia Street, London, E1 9SD

### CONFERENCE SECRETARY

A small but busy conference office of a financial publishing house is looking for a competent secretary (non-smoking) with a minimum of 3 years' experience. The successful candidate will have excellent attention to detail, the ability to work on own initiative and a good telephone manner. Word processing skills (preferably Word for Windows) are required. Shorthand useful.

Annual Salary £14,000 + Bonus  
Please write with CV to:  
Anne Arklow, Conference Director  
Acquisitions Monthly Conferences  
2nd Floor, 11 Gloucester Road, London SW7 4PF

### ARE YOU THE ONE?

Financial Consultancy seeks lively personality to assist two busy executives.  
Organisational, client liaison and good telephone techniques a must, together with full secretarial abilities.  
Salary £16,000 + monthly related bonuses. Review in 6 months.  
No Agency: Call Jacqui Kent on 071-487 3831.

### LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! to £18,500

A West London based international film distribution company needs a young, enthusiastic secretary to provide a first class customer support service to the head of International Sales. Use your excellent communication and organisational skills to ensure his business life runs smoothly in this fast paced medium. All his time arrangements, sorting out a busy diary and the ability to work on your own initiative are vital to ensure success and satisfaction. Skills: 90wpm, WP, and W.P. Age 21-25. Please call Chloë on 071-434 4512.

**Crone Corkill**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

### TEAM SECRETARIES £14,000 - SW1

Large, internationally renowned management consultancy are looking for team secretaries to fill a number of exciting positions, working for executives in a variety of areas. Using your good secretarial skills you will be responsible for diary management, arranging meetings, travel and hotel bookings amongst many other tasks. Speed and accuracy, as well as enthusiasm and a sense of humour will go a long way to ensuring success in this role. Skills: 50wpm, good WP. Age 20-25. Please call Chloë on 071-434 4512.

**Crone Corkill**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

### PERSONNEL MANAGER MID-SIZED LAW FIRM £25,000 W1

We have been retained by our client, an expanding (50 staff) legal practice to recruit an experienced (25 plus) personnel professional. It is anticipated that you will have a minimum of three years experience within a private practice. Capable of using initiative with limited guidance, possessing good interpersonal/management skills. Able to generally new ideas and carry them through. Expected to develop and maintain a recruitment and benefits package based on market information, include staff retention programmes, monitor development and labour turnover. Do member research, budget control and recruitment/evaluation of proposed staff. Smart, modern, computerised office. A challenging and rewarding job.  
For further details call, in the strict confidence, Robert Butler on 071 247 0303. Zarah Hay Partnership, 37 St James Street, London EC2A 2TF.

### WORKING TV TEMPS

Simply The Best Parts In Television.  
Having just won the most prestigious Television award in London, we are looking for applicants who are hungry to work within this environment. We will have temp and perm assignments to fill with immediate effect, and we need to see you NOW! We are not necessarily looking for previous experience in this sector, but it will be an advantage as will aligned media sectors such as Advertising, PR, Design & Direct Marketing.  
Knowledge of Word for Windows, Excel, Freelance & Apple applications are an important ingredient.  
Get moving, before you know it the opportunity will be gone! Call Wendy or Celeste now on 071 240 0040.  
Working Girls Ltd, Professional Recruitment  
17 Tulse Hill, London SW2E 7PA

### Team Secretary - to £14,500

Varied and busy role for an experienced team secretary who enjoys providing a fast and efficient secretarial service. Working closely with two Executives of this high profile trade organisation, you will be producing correspondence, arranging meetings and travel, acting as a point of contact for members queries and assisting with the organisation of exhibitions and seminars. WordPerfect 5.1 essential, typing: 60wpm.

### External Relations - to £13,000

Interesting junior position for a bright young lady with some experience and confident communication skills to support this busy in-house External Relations team. Duties will include typing of correspondence, arranging meetings and travel, handling telephone queries and general assistance in the smooth running of a very busy department. The Recruitment Company 071 831 1220, typing: 35wpm.

The Recruitment Company  
071 831 1220

### AUDIO SECRETARY £14,000 TO WORK IN PROPERTY MARKET

Situated opposite Baker Street Station, you will be working as part of a friendly team. You must have knowledge of WP 5.1, be well educated, a non-smoker, reside within the Greater London catchment area and have a good telephone manner. Immediate start

For an immediate interview contact  
Dyanne Benjamin on 071 486 0648 or  
fax a current CV on 071 486 0924.  
No Agencies.

### FINANCE SECRETARY £18,000

Superb position for a top-class, professional secretary within the Finance Department of the renowned, international marketing company. Excellent secretarial skills (audio & s/h essential), experience with acquisitions, reports & presentations including graphics, and the ability to prioritise a heavy workload. A high level of confidentiality, superb presentation, and proven track record at this level are essential.  
Call HAZEL BRADSHAW, 071 483 1528

**SEGAL**  
RECRUITMENT

### HOLLYWOOD DREAMS £19,000

This fast moving, international film distribution company are looking to recruit an outgoing senior secretary to assist the vice-president of worldwide sales.

Your excellent secretarial skills will be fully utilized as you organise extensive travel arrangements and liaise with senior executives worldwide. Age 25+.

Please call  
071-486 6951 Zarah Hay Partnership

### TRAVEL AND TOURISM £14,000 + EXC. BENS

This prestigious, international leisure group require an administrative secretary for their exclusive West End offices.

Based in the Executive suite you will provide full secretarial support and liaise constantly with internationally renowned clientele in a challenging environment. Age 20-30. Immediate interviews.

Please call  
071-486 6951 Zarah Hay Partnership

### THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER

when you join the Zarah Hay temporary team. You will have the choice of exciting City or West End assignments.

Having secured two major contracts, we have immediate opportunities for WordPerfect, Word for Windows, Word 5 secretaries and professional receptionists.

Please call Fiona Barnett on 071-486 6951 Zarah Hay Partnership

### CAREER MOVES INTO BANKING to £25,000 pkg

Play a leading role in the fast-moving world of High-Finance. Use your energy, INITIATIVE and good skills to move to a NEW CAREER for yourself in MERCHANT BANKING, earning an EXCELLENT PACKAGE whilst enjoying an invigorating business and social life. Aged between 18-30 years.  
Phone Immediately 071 374 2921  
Fax 071 628 8822  
5 London Wall Buildings, Fenchurch Circus, EC2M 5NT (Recruitment Consultants)

### Judy Farquharson Ltd.

47 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HA  
Tel: 071-493 8824 Fax: 071-493 7161  
TOY LICENSING COMPANY seeks secretary to join busy marketing team in Central London. Age 21-25. 50wpm typing, WP 5.1. Must be willing, keen to learn and free to start now. £12-13,000.  
EXHIBITION A young lively PA needed with 50 wpm typing, 80 S/H and some previous office experience for fast moving, non desk-bound job. SW1. £13,000.

PUBLISHERS Several openings with a major London book publisher for secretaries with 50+ wpm typing, WP, audio and ideally spreadsheet experience, see £12-15,000.

**JFL**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

### FRIEND & FAIRCLIFF SECRETARY

required for busy Chelsea residential letting department. Must have good typing and audio skills and a sense of humour. To start immediately.

Please contact Jo Miles on 071 225 0814 or fax C.V. to 071 581 0728.

071 401 500



## CREME DE LA CREME

Reception  
£15,500 - W1

Major UK company seeks high calibre Receptionist for Mayfair HQ. In addition to meeting and greeting VIP clients the role includes switchboard, occasional keyboard and some administrative involvement (eg updating staff lists, stationery stocks etc). Polished, professional presentation, a calm, outgoing approach and a proven record of success in a demanding, fast-paced reception role are all essential attributes. Keyboard skills also requested. Age guide 25-30 years. Please call 071-493 5767.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

Recruitment  
£15,000 + bonus

Have you got what it takes to survive and thrive in a fast-paced, high-growth industry? Gordon Yates, London's longest established secretarial consultancy, is presently developing its temporary division. Drive, enthusiasm and excellent communication skills are the key qualities we seek. Experience in recruitment, personnel or sales is desirable. Full training and support given, both initially and as part of our ongoing development programme. Please call Richard Lince on 071-493 5767.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

Personnel Administrator  
£25,000 - W1

Well-established, outgoing professional partnership seeks experienced person to look after support staff recruitment, personnel records, etc. Excellent interpersonal skills, proven administrative strengths, the ability to motivate and lead a small team and a sound knowledge of employment law plus payroll/HR experience are all essential attributes. A back-jump within a partnership environment is useful, not essential. Keyboard skills advantageous. Age guide 35-40 years. Please call 071-493 5767.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

PA TO MANAGING DIRECTOR  
New Executive Search Firm

I am seeking an experienced, well educated and business aware PA to help build a new Executive Search firm. Besides excellent secretarial skills you must possess the presence and ability to handle senior executive clients and candidates. Additionally you must have the organisational skills to establish office practices, develop a computerised candidate database and co-ordinate marketing activities.

You must want to be actively involved in the business and have the flexibility vital to succeed in a small organisation. Experience in a similar organisation or at a senior level in an HR department would be an advantage. Salary will be circa £16,500pa and you will be based in our West End office.

If you think you have the ability to help build this new business, then explain in one page your reasons and send it with your CV to: Mr Terry Edney, Managing Director, Kiddy and Partners (Search & Selection) Ltd, 26 Harcourt House, 19 Cavendish Square, London W1M 9AB.

A NEW YEAR - A NEW OPPORTUNITY  
PERSONAL ASSISTANT  
FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A Personal Assistant is required with full secretarial skills (including shorthand) for our Chief Executive. Experience of Word Perfect would be helpful. Extensive organisational abilities and freedom to travel from time to time are essential as there will be involvement in U.K. Conferences with up to 750 delegates and Overseas Conventions. A very competitive remuneration package will be available to the right applicant.

Applications, with a full curriculum vitae, should be forwarded to:

Paul Philip  
Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive  
RELIANCE MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED  
Reliance House, Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8BL

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
£11,500 p.a.

If you are looking to make a great start in your career, then this could be the opportunity for you. We are seeking a young, enthusiastic college leaver to join our busy administration team. As a leading UK training company currently enjoying an exciting period of growth, we now require an enthusiastic and motivated individual to join our team of administrative staff. Your dedication and eye for detail will be well rewarded working in a busy atmosphere with a small and friendly team.

Please send CV to: Alison Baker/Caroline Hobart  
Leadership Development Ltd  
071-381 6233

REGAN & DEAN + ADLAND  
EVENT MANAGEMENT CO.  
FRENCH SPEAKING PA

Charismatic Chief Executive of leading international company needs a professional and highly organised PA to be part of a dedicated team. A graduate in Business Studies or Marketing is ideal. Excellent WP skills are essential (basic shorthand) along with some relevant Secretarial experience. There's plenty of responsibility and scope to work closely with high-profile clients. Fluent French is essential. Age 25-30. £18,000 neg/ann.

Regan & Dean + Adland Recruitment  
63 South Molton Street W1Y 1HL Tel: 071 409 3244.

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VACANCIES

We are a small privately owned consultancy dealing with many prestigious City and West End companies. We regularly recruit secretarial and administrative staff for a wide variety of assignments. We can offer TOP RATES & FLEX WP & TRAINING AND COMPANY PERSONAL SECRETARIES. For more details contact: Joanne Thomas or Lisa Scherer Tel: 071 329 8855 Fax: 071 332 8249

## PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR £21K

Are you a confident & capable secretary seeking a new challenge? An enthusiastic & committed team player is required to work for a Communications Consultancy in WC2. Previous client experience & excellent secretarial skills are essential. Proficiency in all office systems at a minimum. Applications on 071 408 0424.

CALL US NOW  
FOR JOBS WITH PROSPECTS!

Admin audio sec HR Consulting Team W. End £15,500 + package.  
Young sec/recep Management Team Belgrave £12,000.  
Flooring team sec dynamic PR Co City £14,500 + package.  
Director's secretary Sales & Marketing W. End £15,500 + package.  
JOYCE GUINNESS PARTNERSHIP 071 589 8807 AGY

## PRIVATE EYE - £21,000

Fraud prevention, theft, kidnapping and personal safety are just some of the problems solved by our client. Group headquarters is in London but with many personnel in Europe, America, Africa and Asia, the business is worldwide. The Managing Director needs a dynamic PA with an inquisitive mind, excellent skills, French and the ability to react to any situation with extreme rapidity. Age 30-38. Skills 100/70.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES  
071 629 9323

## GROSVENOR

COLLEGE LEAVERS. £9-£13,000.  
Make your first position a job to be proud of! We have several opportunities in various fields - from a Design Unit in Chelsea to Underwriters in the City, via Publishing in the West End. If you have WP skills, good typing and a flexible attitude, please call us. ENTERTAINMENT, TV, PROPERTY, HOTELS £13-£18,000. Now that you've got your foot on the ladder, take those excellent secretarial skills overseas and upwards! Talented, bright, hardworking second jobs are needed for the above industries (several based in SW1W London). SENIOR PAs £16-£18,000. Highly skilled, intelligent, computer literate PAs are needed for professional environments in the West End. If you are looking for a busy role within a growing company, please call us to make an appointment. GROSVENOR BUREAU RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS TEL: 071 499 6566

Maine-Tucker  
Recruitment ConsultantsTHE YOUNG ONES....  
£12-14,500 + Great perks  
Only 6 months exp needed!

It's time to stop being the 'spare part' in the office and become a valued member of a team in a fast-moving, happening company that really cares about you. Below are just some of the best companies in London looking for young Secretaries 20+ with a little secretarial experience and good typing (50+) no shorthand! In addition they offer great perks including all of these: medical, insurance, subsidised meals, subsidised travel/STL, even free courses of your choice and more.

## Capital City

Business fires through the wires here like quicksilver and you are right in the middle of it all because you are a valued team member of this worldwide company, which everyone has heard of. The offices are smart and modern and the people are great too. All they ask is that you have some exp of spreadsheets or Windows and perhaps graphics and if you have, give us a call.

## Simply the Best

Well probably! This Victoria company is one of the largest Blue-Chip companies in its fields and young Secretaries (20+) love working here because it's just so professional, the offices are fantastic and you know that everyday you come to work, you not only have one of the best jobs in London, but a very secure one too. What do they want? 50 typing and Windows exp, but they'll cross train. So if this sounds like you, give us a call.

## Marketing Magic

This friendly fun team are looking for a young WP 5.1 Secretary to help them with the secretarial side of their marketing projects...from national surveys to major prize draws and more! What more can we say, except that here is a really involved job in an interesting subject! If you're 20+ desperate for an exciting new job, call us soon.

## Go-Getting Graduate Wanted!

Join this extremely smart West-End recruitment consultancy as their trouble-shooting lynchpin. The company is very young (the oldest is 36) and they need someone who is happy to do everything, because this is how you are going to learn so you can become a senior member of the team. This is a job for a smart switched on Graduate. All you need is 40+ typing...

18-21 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6HP  
Telephone 071 734 7341

## Team Secretary

St. Paul's c.£18,000

MFS Communications Limited is the London start-up of the United States' leading provider of competitive access and local private line telecommunications services for international business and government.

Based in the City, you will provide a responsive secretarial and administrative service to a team of highly motivated managers.

As an extension of the management team, you will be proactive, confident, articulate and well able to take a high profile within the company.

To join us, you must have several years' solid experience in a similar, senior role and a good working knowledge of Microsoft Office for Windows. Critically

important is your ability to cope with the variety and pressures of a working day which seldom ends at 5.30. The ideal candidate will probably be living within the Central London area.

The company has exciting plans for its continuing development and we can offer you an excellent salary and benefits package.

To apply, please send a copy of your CV along with a covering letter to Jenny Bolton-Clark, Office Manager, MFS Communications Limited, 1 Castle Lane, London SW1E 6DN.

Closing date for applications: Friday 21 January 1994. We regret that fax or telephone enquiries will not be replied to.

## MFS COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED

Knight Frank  
& Rutley  
INTERNATIONAL

We are looking for confident, well presented people to provide first class secretarial support to a number of commercial departments knowledge of Microsoft Word for Windows an advantage.

## Audio Secretary - Retail Department

Sense of humour. Good telephone manner and must be organised.

## Audio Secretary - Building Surveying Department

Audio typing 65 wpm, WP skills. Good telephone manner and organising skills.

## Receptionist

Meeting and greeting clients, booking lunch rooms, meeting rooms. Ordering bikes and generally maintaining the reception area. Must be well presented, articulate.

## Competitive salaries, together with staff benefits.

Applications in writing with full Curriculum Vitae and stating which job you are applying for, to be sent to:

Mrs Jane Turner

Personnel Department

Knight Frank & Rutley

20 Hanover Square, London W1R 0AH

Telephone 071-629 8171 Fax 071-413 8117

## £20,000++ WEST END

High profile boss constantly in and out of the Press needs a highly competent PA/Sec. You would hold a key role at senior level assisting with speeches, functions, complex communications strategies and full administrative & secretarial support.

We need a born organiser a true professional, a team player and a conscientious & switched on PA/Sec who enjoys a fast moving, hardworking and often frantic environment. Sense of humour, strong personality, polished and articulate essential. 23-35 Shortlisted useful/60

## CITY £20K

Presentations, graphics, diaries, client liaison are all vital elements of this exciting job working for one of the top city institutions within their research department. You will be responsible for informing internal and external clients on the markets through organising seminars. You must enjoy being a team player, work independently and like systems. 60 typing, W4W, Excel and graphics preferred.

Call Kathryn Wakefield, Lizzy Tustin, Judith Pety 071-267 7788, fax 071-493 5376

## Angela Mortimer

## Angela Mortimer

SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY

Please call 021 452 1030 to make a booking. Quote Ref: LZ DYP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form and send with cheque for £25

(£20 before 9/2/94) payable to:

The Industrial Society, CBU,

Freeport BM 4380,

Birmingham

B15 1BR

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SECRETARIAL Recruitment Consultants who you earn over £25,000 this year? Are you happy with the direction that your career is going in? Do you make the distinction? If the answer is no, then call us to discuss the alternative. 071 452 1030

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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Appointments for more information

(071-408 0424). The tuition fee is a

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TIMES. Saturday March 19th, The

Industrial Society, 3 Carlton House

Terrace SW1, 9:45 - 5:00.

Invest one Saturday and

change your life!

TEMP! join us for the first ever

personal development training day

created especially for you! Choose from

10 powerful workshops geared to help



















**BBC1**

6.00 Business Breakfast (19541)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (6845683)  
9.05 Kibby. Topical studio discussion chaired by Robert Kibby (4472828)  
9.45 Newsround. Quiz with Ross King (s) (1822893)  
10.00 News and weather (5820522) 10.05 Playdays with Zof Ball (s) (5979831)  
10.30 Good Morning. With Anne and Nick. Weekly magazine programme presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (6186744)  
12.15 Pebble MILL. Ross King is joined by Roger Daltry and Adam Faith (4246102) 12.55 News regional news and weather (57461102)  
1.00 One O'Clock News (6845683) (13487831)  
1.30 Newsround. Cameron's belief in the Peace Patrol is put to the test. 2.15 Half Four. A man is framed for a series of arson attacks (s) (533725)  
3.05 Today's Gourmet. Jacques Poché prepared sandwiches for a picnic (6186744)  
3.35 Cartoon (735573) 3.45 SuperTed. Cartoon (s) (735573) 3.55 Bites. The series in which Jack is transformed (s) (735573) 4.10 Jackanory. Rick Mayall with a series of Roald Dahl's *George's marvellous medicine* (s) (6178454) 4.20 Popeye and Son (1511522)  
4.35 The Really Wild Show. Michaela Strachan swims with a manatee, a rare "sea cow" (6845683) (5420251)  
5.10 Miled. Martin Sand. A man who has had enough of doing all the work and takes up a job as a double glazing salesman. Comedy series starring Kate Loneragan, Wayne Morris and Tony Robinson (6845683) (1555676)  
5.35 Neighbours (s) (6845683) Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Andrew Harvey (6845683) (251)  
6.30 Regional News Magazine (6845683). Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
7.00 FILM: Best Shot (1986), starring Gene Hackman as a suburban school coach who is faced with a hostile reception when he arrives in an Indian town in 1957 to take charge of the local high school team. His tough methods soon make him enemies among the players and their families, but he refuses to compromise. Directed by David Anspaugh. (6845683) (251)  
8.50 TV. The last Barbara Woodhouse, who taught us how to train our dogs, in Danny Baker's subject this week (s) (6845683) (443164)  
9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party. (6845683) (172611)  
9.05 One O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. (6845683) (6845683)  
9.35 QED Family Special. (6845683) (6845683) Enough? (6845683) (6845683)

**BBC2**

8.00 Breakfast News. (6845683) (4822021)  
8.15 Westminster Daily. (6845683) (590305)  
9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 1.20 Puppets Tales (7416358) 1.25 Fireman Sam (7416358) 1.30-1.40 Stoppit and Tidyp (6128522)  
2.00 News (6845683) and weather (6845683) 2.05 Storytime (s) (6845683) 2.15 First Eleven. Laurence Bradbury discusses Picasso's *La Femme en Chemise*, from the artist's Blue Period (s) (6845683)  
2.35 Countryfile. An examination of the environmental problems posed by the expansion of airports in the UK (s) (6845683) (9317015)  
3.00 News (6845683) and weather (7389270) 3.05 Westminster Live. Iain McWhirter presents live coverage from Parliament (6845683) 3.50 News (6845683) regional news and weather (7389270)  
4.00 Today's Day. Daily current affairs quiz with Martin Lewis (s) (744)  
4.30 People of the Valley. Welsh drama with English subtitles (s) (928)  
5.00 Catchword. Word game with Paul Cole (s) (3857)  
5.30 Food and Drink (s) (s) (980)  
6.00 Star Trek. Captain Kirk sails for a rebellious planet (6845683) (6845683)  
6.50 Day of the Week. A comedy examination of racism and how it affects young people in Britain. Kevin Day, an alternative comedian who admits he is a teenage racist, thinks we should laugh at racial jokes (s) (448184)  
7.30 On the Line. The natural lifespan of a greyhound is about 13 years; but they are considered too old for racing after the age of four. What happens to the 30,000 racing dogs which finish their careers every year (s) (657)

**BBC2 8.00pm**

In a graphic piece of oral history former merchant seamen recall their experiences of sailing the convoys during the Second World War. Their role was to keep essential supplies moving, both to Britain itself and the Soviet ally. It was a task carried out in appalling conditions with a high casualty rate. Although civilians, the merchant seamen suffered a higher casualty rate (one in four) than the Navy, the Army or the Air Force. Fifty years on, old men still choke with emotion as they remember the fear and the danger and watching comrades die. And they remain bitter that their contribution to the Allied victory has been so little recognised.

**QED Family Special**  
BBC1, 9.35pm

A memorable edition of QED last year reported on the anguish of a Welsh couple, Amanda and Clive Webber, over the unruly behaviour of their five-year-old son, Andrew. They eventually went to the Maudsley Hospital in London, which has pioneered therapy designed to return difficult children to normal family life. This new film includes an update on Andrew's progress and a report on another couple, Geoff and Jane. They have been referred by social services because of concern about their 15-year-old son, who is being treated for schizophrenia. In gripping detail the film follows the treatment, counselling and assessment as the Maudsley team decides whether Geoff and Jane should be allowed to keep their baby girl.

**Building Sights USA**  
BBC2, 8.50pm

The series in which people talk about their favourite buildings moves across the Atlantic. It goes off to a lively city with the veteran architect Philip Johnson, enthusing about the elegant Grand Central Terminal in New York. Completed in 1913, it looks more like a ballroom than a railway terminus. This is partly because the trains are hidden away underground. Johnson suggests a deeper reason. The Grand Central was built in a pre-functional age when architecture could still afford to give pleasure. Heavily for old-fashioned capitalism, says Johnson, suggesting that only a dictator or a wealthy patron could produce such a prodigious building today.

**BBC2 8.00pm**

Timewatch: Forgotten Heroes. (6845683) (6845683)  
8.50 Building Sights, USA: Grand Central Terminal (s) (474034)  
9.00 Maudsley Hospital (6845683) (6845683)  
10.25 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party. (6845683) (6845683)  
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (6845683) (482299)  
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (6845683) (6845683)  
11.55 Weather (744588)  
12.00 FILM: Ship to India (1947, b/w) starring Holger Löwenstam, Anna Lindahl and Birger Malmsten. Another in the season of early Ingmar Bergman films. A sailor comes home after seven years at sea to find himself in conflict with his father, the skipper of a salvage vessel. In Swedish with English subtitles (482145). Ends at 1.00am.

**BBC2 8.00pm**

Timewatch: Forgotten Heroes. (6845683) (6845683)  
8.50 Building Sights, USA: Grand Central Terminal (s) (474034)  
9.00 Maudsley Hospital (6845683) (6845683)  
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Patrick Malahide and Juliet Aubrey (BBC2, 8.00pm)

**Middlemarch**  
BBC2, 9.00pm

George Eliot's novel is often regarded as the finest in the English language, to be compared in scope and subtlety with *Anna Karenina* or *War and Peace*. For television it is one of the ultimate challenges, taken up here by Andrew Davies of *To Play the King*. Forists may complain that the screen cannot cope with Eliot's intricate web of characters and themes. This is still a quality production, good to look at and performed by a cast which combines familiar faces (Michael Hordern, Robert Hardy, Patrick Malahide) with the bold use of relative newcomers to key parts. Juliet Aubrey, who plays the earnest Dorothea, and Trevor McDonald, as the self-centred Rosamund, will soon be unknown no longer. Stamford in Lincolnshire effectively doubles as Eliot's fictional Midlands town about to feel the impact of the railway and the 1832 Reform Act.

**Timewatch: Forgotten Heroes**  
BBC2, 8.00pm

In a graphic piece of oral history former merchant seamen recall their experiences of sailing the convoys during the Second World War. Their role was to keep essential supplies moving, both to Britain itself and the Soviet ally. It was a task carried out in appalling conditions with a high casualty rate. Although civilians, the merchant seamen suffered a higher casualty rate (one in four) than the Navy, the Army or the Air Force. Fifty years on, old men still choke with emotion as they remember the fear and the danger and watching comrades die. And they remain bitter that their contribution to the Allied victory has been so little recognised.

**QED Family Special**  
BBC1, 9.35pm

A memorable edition of QED last year reported on the anguish of a Welsh couple, Amanda and Clive Webber, over the unruly behaviour of their five-year-old son, Andrew. They eventually went to the Maudsley Hospital in London, which has pioneered therapy designed to return difficult children to normal family life. This new film includes an update on Andrew's progress and a report on another couple, Geoff and Jane. They have been referred by social services because of concern about their 15-year-old son, who is being treated for schizophrenia. In gripping detail the film follows the treatment, counselling and assessment as the Maudsley team decides whether Geoff and Jane should be allowed to keep their baby girl.

**Building Sights USA**  
BBC2, 8.50pm

The series in which people talk about their favourite buildings moves across the Atlantic. It goes off to a lively city with the veteran architect Philip Johnson, enthusing about the elegant Grand Central Terminal in New York. Completed in 1913, it looks more like a ballroom than a railway terminus. This is partly because the trains are hidden away underground. Johnson suggests a deeper reason. The Grand Central was built in a pre-functional age when architecture could still afford to give pleasure. Heavily for old-fashioned capitalism, says Johnson, suggesting that only a dictator or a wealthy patron could produce such a prodigious building today.

**BBC2 8.00pm**

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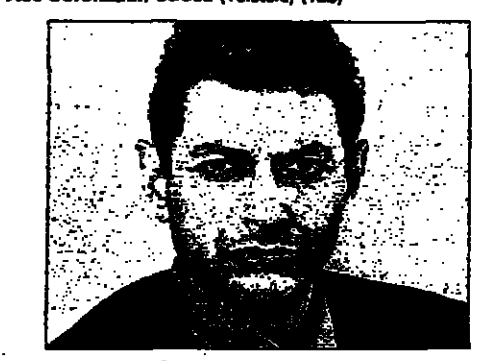
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**ITV LONDON**

6.00 GANTY with Michael Wilson and Eamonn Holmes (367251) 9.00 Top of the Morning with Amanda Redington. Includes a mother and baby feature (6819835)  
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw. Celebrity game show (5872590) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (5355521)  
10.00 The Place. The Place John Stapleton hosts a topical studio discussion (7237560)  
10.35 The Morning. Weekly magazine (6180183) 12.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (240473)  
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (1415218)  
1.25 News and weather. Luke and Ben catch up their differences at last (Teletext) (2800170)  
1.55 Chrysalis. Style Guide. Chrysalis Rose gives beauty tips for the hair and the face (s) (1345238)  
2.20 A Country Practice. Medical drama serial set in Australian country town (s) (8738857) 2.50 The Young Doctors. Drama serial set in Australian hospital (6819835)  
3.30 News (Teletext) and weather (7365560) 3.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7365560)  
3.55 Tots TV (s) (7321560) 4.00 Allsorts (s) (7565454) 4.15 The Adventures of Grady Greenpeace. Armageddon adventures of an environmentally-aware detective (7321560) 4.05 Scooby Doo. Cartoon (s) (7321560) 4.15 Tenor Towers. Comedy-horror game show (620454) 4.45 Tiny Toon Adventures. Cartoon (402251)  
5.10 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (558015)  
5.40 ITN Early Evening News with John Suchet (Teletext) and weather (62403)  
6.00 London Tonight. (Teletext) (55857)  
7.00 This is Your Life. The return of the long-running show, presented by Michael Aspel. (Teletext) (s) (6837)  
7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (183)



Jeff Goldblum joins Das in New York (8.00pm)

8.00 Das O'Connor Tonight. Recorded in New York. The guests are Jeff Goldblum, Joan Rivers, Oleta Adams, Zed, Jeff Brooks and Greg Rogel (6845683) (6845683)  
9.00 99-1. Police drama with Leslie Grantham as an undercover detective. (Teletext) (s) (173)  
10.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party (732528)  
10.05 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald. (Teletext) and weather (684218)  
10.45 Carlton Sport. Highlights from tonight's Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final (s) (571173)  
12.00 FILM: Murder on Mersey (1974) starring Bradford Dillman. A retired lawyer and his ambitious son defend a doctor accused of killing his terminally ill wife. Directed by Harvey Henry (6845683)  
1.30 Hollywood Report. Showbiz gossip (s) (10431)  
2.00 Chrysalis. Style Guide. Beauty hints (s) (49400)  
2.30 The Album Show (s) (51077)  
3.30 Videoflash. The latest offerings from France (27277)  
4.00 The Whirlwind. Drama about a French family in 19th-century South Africa (s) (9036)  
5.00 America's Top Ten (s) (40503)  
5.30 ITN Morning News (4139). Ends at 6.00

**SKY ONE**

6.00m DJ Kool (681678) 8.40 Lamb Chop (732586) 9.10 Carsons (707722) 9.30 Card Sharks (642164) 9.55 Conan-O'Brien (681678) 10.25 Dharma & Greg (681678) 10.55 The Simpsons (707722) 11.00 Saturday Night Live (707722) 11.30 The Simpsons (707722) 11.55 The Simpsons (707722) 12.00 The Simpsons (707722) 12.30 The Simpsons (707722) 1.00 The Simpsons (707722) 1.30 The Simpsons (707722) 1.55 The Simpsons (707722) 2.00 The Simpsons (707722) 2.30 The Simpsons (707722) 2.55 The Simpsons (707722) 3.00 The Simpsons (707722) 3.30 The Simpsons (707722) 3.55 The Simpsons (707722) 4.00 The Simpsons (707722) 4.30 The Simpsons (707722) 4.55 The Simpsons (707722) 5.00 The Simpsons (707722) 5.30 The Simpsons (707722) 5.55 The Simpsons (707722) 6.00 The Simpsons (707722)

**SKY MOVIES**

6.00m Skynet (512541)  
6.30m The Desperate Housewife: Companion piece to Last of the Mohicans (41454)  
7.00m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 7.30m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 7.55m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 8.20m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 8.45m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 9.10m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 9.35m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 9.55m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 10.20m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 10.45m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 11.10m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 11.35m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 11.55m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 12.20m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 12.45m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 1.10m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 1.35m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 1.55m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 2.20m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 2.45m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 2.55m The Taming of the Shrew (1970) (6845683) 3.20m 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## RACING 41

WARWICK STANDS BY  
TO STAGE  
ASCOT'S BIG RACE

## SPORT

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 12 1994

## YACHTING 42

CONNER STORMS INTO  
LEAD IN ROUND  
THE WORLD RACE

# Branfoot bows to protesters' pressure

By Keith Pike

IAN Branfoot yesterday became the fifth manager to part company with an FA Carling Premiership football club this season when he left Southampton, who are one place off the bottom of the table.

According to a statement issued by Guy Ashkan, the Southampton chairman, Branfoot's resignation was accepted during a meeting yesterday morning, but it is clear that the club had come under increasing pressure to dismiss him. Supporters who staged a number of demonstrations during recent matches at The Dell had threatened a boycott of home games unless Branfoot was replaced.

Branfoot refused to elaborate on his departure as he left the ground. "I don't want to say anything at the moment other than to wish the club every success," he said. "It is a wonderful club full of wonderful people."

Lew Chatterley, the first-team coach, and John Mortimore, Branfoot's assistant, have been placed in temporary charge, but among the favourites to succeed Branfoot on a full-time basis are Peter Reid, who joined the Southampton playing staff after being dismissed as manager of Manchester City in August, and Graham Taylor, the former England manager. Lawrie McMenemy, formerly Taylor's assistant, who managed Southampton between 1973 and 1985 and returned to the club as a director last month, will be involved in the search for Branfoot's successor.

Southampton's lack of progress during Branfoot's 31 months in charge had made his position vulnerable, but the influence of disgruntled supporters cannot be underestimated. Asked if terrace protests had played any part in the decision, Brian Truscott, the club secretary, said: "You can draw your own conclusions."

Southampton finished sixth in Branfoot's first season in charge, reaching the quarter-finals of the FA Cup.

but after banking £3.2 million from the sale of Alan Shearer to Blackburn Rovers, failed to replace his goalscoring prowess and finished two points clear of relegation last season.

This season they have fared no better. Only Swindon Town are below them in the Premiership. Shrewsbury Town, of the third division, knocked them out of the Coca-Cola Cup in September, and on Saturday they trailed Port Vale in an FA Cup third-round tie before forcing a replay.

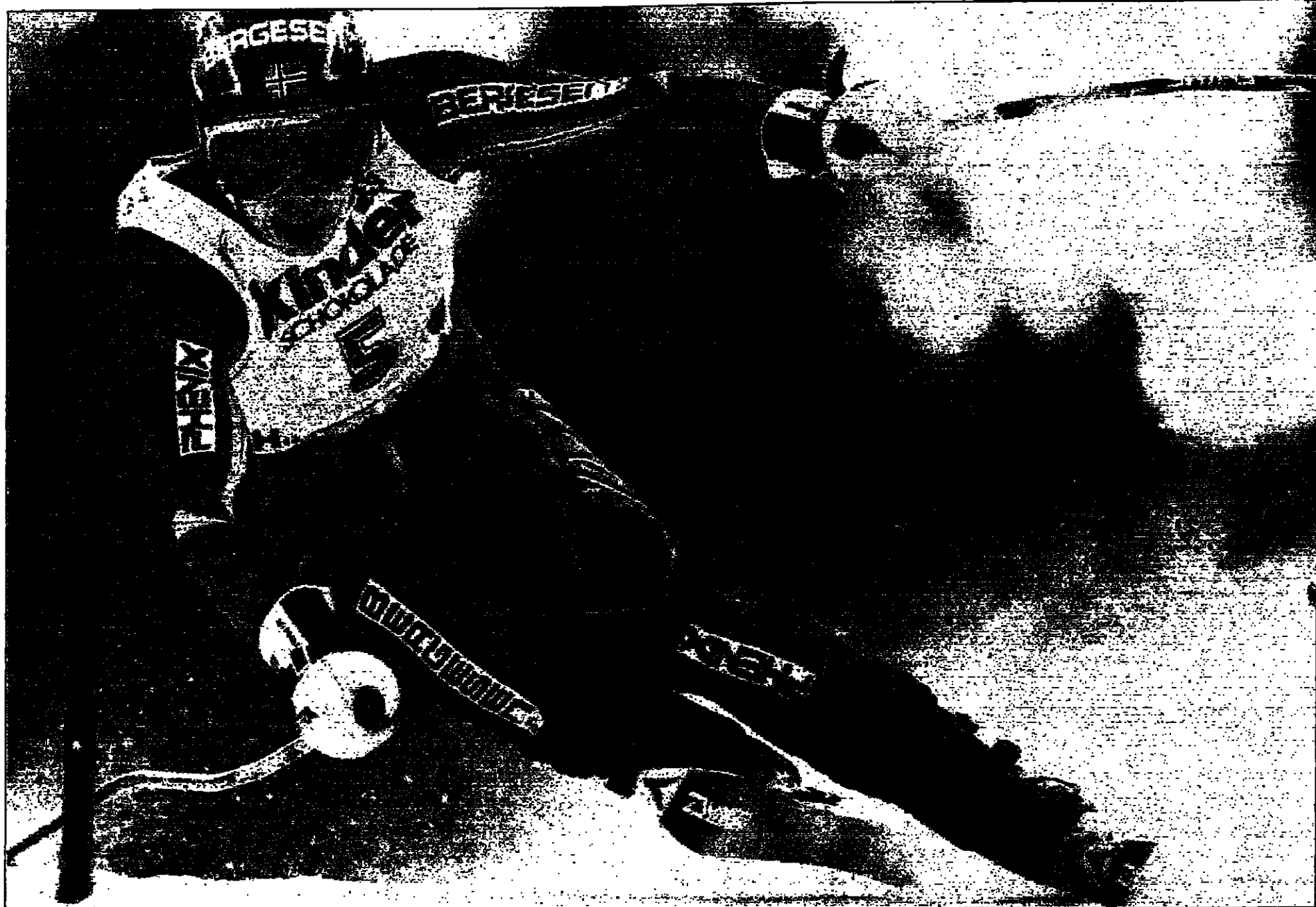
Their most valuable asset, the goalkeeper, Tim Flowers, followed Shearer to Ewood Park for £2 million in November. Branfoot, 47, had been the target of personal abuse from supporters. Clive Foley, a member of the Southampton Independent Supporters' Association, which had called for Branfoot's dismissal, said: "This is a victory for people power. It's the fans who wanted him out and it's the fans who have got him out."

Ashkan's statement said that Branfoot had "served the club honourably, skilfully and diligently in circumstances in which lesser men would have given up before now."

Branfoot, born in Gateshead, played for Sheffield Wednesday, Doncaster Rovers and Lincoln City. He became Reading manager in January 1984, guiding them to promotion twice, but was dismissed in October 1989. He was then assistant manager at Crystal Palace before joining Southampton in June 1991.

Terry Butcher, the former England defender, claimed more than £419,000 damages in the High Court yesterday for being dismissed as player-manager of Coventry City. Butcher, 35, claimed Coventry had no reasonable grounds for ending his £200,000-a-year contract in January 1992, although the club argued that he was unable to fulfil his contractual duty to play or to be available to play because of a knee injury. The hearing continues today.

McClair recalled, page 40



Kjetil Aamodt, of Norway, displays the dash and style of an Olympic champion while winning the giant slalom in Hinterstoder, Austria, yesterday. Results, page 40

## Decision day for Scottish hopefuls

By Kevin McCarrar

HISTORY and geography will be at loggerheads today. The claims of each must be weighed by the 38 members of the Scottish Football League who vote in Glasgow on which two clubs should be granted the new places created by reconstruction.

Three of the five applicants are Highland clubs which can claim a long tradition of defeating league opponents in the Scottish Cup. The other contenders are from the Borders. While Gretna, who play in the Northern Premier League in England, are certain to be rejected, Gala can expect to win votes on location alone.

Galashiels is easily reached by the bulk of Scotland's League members, who are in the central belt. The club also enjoys a catchment area of

130,000 people. Attendances, however, are meagre and suggestions that they will boom can only be hypothetical.

The market for football in the Highlands is already established. It is an anomaly and an embarrassment that Inverness, the acknowledged capital of the Highlands, has never had a side in the League. Caledonian Thistle, to be formed by merger, will surely receive one of the places this afternoon. The delegates of the 38 member clubs must then decide if they can afford to ignore the credentials of Elgin and Ross County.

Resistance to them is led by those who fear the inconvenience and expense of travel. Tommy Gemmell, the manager of Albion Rovers, whose cup-tie at Huntly will probably take place today after eight postponements, argues that the severe winters in the north

justify the exclusion of Highland teams.

The digits on the thermometer are not the only numbers to be reckoned with. Ross supporters comprised the bulk of the 2,439 crowd which saw their side win 4-0 at Forfar on Saturday.

The Highland applicants hope that they will receive both places. The League now gives more than half the votes to the premier division clubs, who might never have to meet, and travel to, the lowly newcomers. Should these major powers be impressed by the claims of the Highland sides, they can afford the altruism of awarding them both places.

Dundee paid £200,000 to sign the Patrick Thistle strikers, George Shaw and Gerry Britton, in time for their match with Aberdeen last night. Celtic signed the Leicester City goalkeeper, Carl Muggleton,

25, for £150,000 yesterday.

Torino, Arsenal's scheduled opponents in the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup in March, may be thrown out of the competition. Uefa, the European governing body, said yesterday it was opening an investigation into allegations of match-fixing and financial irregularities at the club.

Uefa also said its emergency committee would meet on Friday to decide whether to accept the application by the Yugoslav federation, representing Serbia and Montenegro, to take part in the 1996 European championship.

The body was yesterday reported to have fined Wales SwR£15,000 (about £6,800) for the incident in which a supporter was killed by a flare after the World Cup match against Romania at Cardiff on November 17.

## Hide keeps British title after enquiry

By Sri Kumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

HERBIE Hide, the Norwich heavyweight, was confirmed as British champion by the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) yesterday. Doubts about the Nigerian-born heavyweight's eligibility had been raised last summer when a newspaper report claimed he was not a British citizen when he won the title in February 1993.

The board said that even though Hide was not a British citizen at the time of the championship bout against Michael Murray, of Manchester, in Dagenham, he could still keep his title as his application for citizenship was made in 1988 when he was still a minor.

Sir David Hopkin, chairman of the board, said: "There is a letter from the Home Office that states their sorrow at not having dealt with his application sooner. We feel a grave injustice would be sustained by Mr Hide if the laxy of the Home Office were to lead to Mr Hide being stripped of his title."

Hide, who was prepared

to give up his title if necessary than have it stripped from him, was delighted. "I'm absolutely delighted I can fight for the British title against Michael Bantz as British champion."

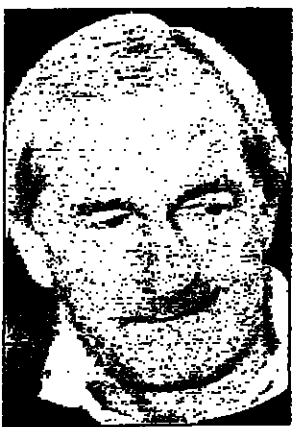
Barty Hearn, Hide's manager, said it would have been a lot easier to give up the title but this had been the correct way to deal with the matter.

"I applaud the board for their decision," Hearn said. "They dealt with it with a considerable amount of wisdom and common sense. I am glad that Herbie will be able to go into the ring on March 19 as British champion against Bantz."

Hearn has issued official complaints to the board and the World Boxing Organisation about Bantz's behaviour at Monday's news conference, where punches were thrown more than two months before the bout.

Hearn said: "I've asked the WBO to take action against Bantz. He is not worthy of holding that title after what happened at the head-to-head."

## Walker sets ambitious goals for struggling Everton



Walker encouraged

EVERTON'S players have quickly discovered that they have inherited a demanding taskmaster. After spending Monday saying his goodbyes at Norwich City, Mike Walker introduced himself to his new team yesterday by putting them through an intensive morning's training on his first working day.

"That was a really hard session," one player, who wished to remain anonymous, said. "They may find they are working a bit harder than they have been used to," Walker confirmed.

But if Walker's arrival promises a diet of hard work, his players will be given a chance to prove their mettle. He reiterated yesterday that he will not be drawn into any hasty judgments on either players or his coaching staff.

Peter Ball finds the new manager at Goodison Park in upbeat mood after completing his first training session

"It will take a couple of weeks for me to bed in. I need to see the players and decide what I think," he said. "You've seen managers go into other clubs and start throwing people out and in the end it hasn't worked out."

"When I took over at Norwich I thought there were three or four players who might not last the course, but they are all still in the team, because they worked and improved."

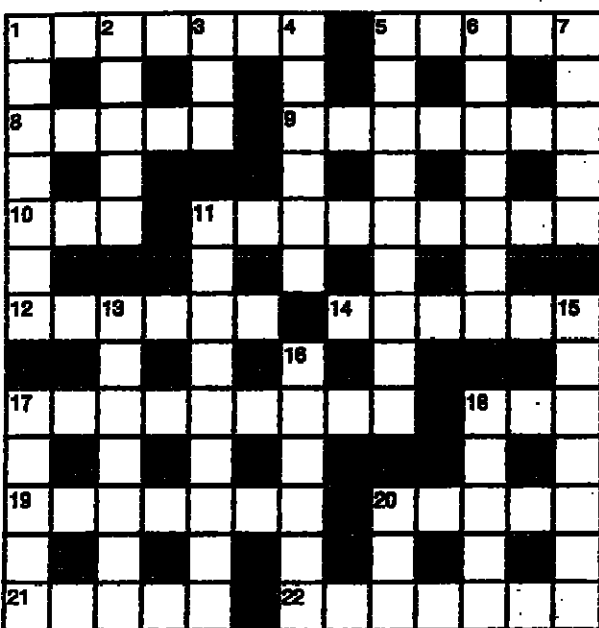
"I have said to the players here that they start all square with me. If they were out of favour with Howard Kendall that won't affect my judgment."

It's up to them to prove themselves. The bottom line is, are they good enough?"

Walker, heartened by the spirit shown in the 1-1 draw at Bolton in the FA Cup on Saturday, said: "I'm quite encouraged by what I've seen. At Norwich we had a pattern set like clockwork, and all I had to do was to improve the confidence and work on a few little things. There is a bit of work to do here... and you have got to be realistic, you are not going to turn it round straightaway, but I think we can get to the top six."

From Everton's position that would be a signal achievement, but that is only a beginning for Walker. "Big clubs are expected to win things, and that's why I came here," he said. "I'm not frightened. If I had wanted a quiet life, I could have stayed at Norwich. I wasn't expected to win the Premiership there. I put pressure on myself to try to win it, that was the difference in the club's ambition and mine."

"At Everton, we will endeavour to play attractive football, but with an end-product, with goals. I might not have the players to play in the same pattern as Norwich, but we will be a passing team and we want to get some silverware too." Walker has the comfort of knowing that, with the takeover imminent, money will be available.



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Just released from Times Books. The Times Crosswords - Book 17. The Times Concise Crosswords - Book 5. The Sunday Times Crosswords - Book 12. £4.25 each (inc p&p).

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 60

## ACROSS

- 1 Chekhov dramatised three (7)
- 5 Traditionally neutral European (5)
- 8 Desert watering-hole (5)
- 9 VIP (7)
- 10 Natural light source (3)
- 11 Conference, originally drinking party (9)
- 12 County where William the Conqueror landed (6)
- 14 Abbreviated version of rugby (6)
- 17 Girdle to attach weapon (5,4)
- 18 Ship's crew (7)
- 20 Feeling, intelligence (5)

## DOWN

- 21 Run (3,2): respectable drama (5)
- 22 Out of the ordinary (7)
- 1 Husbands and wives (7)
- 2 Lazy —, a revolving tray (5)
- 3 The letter 'S' (3)
- 4 Seed used for oil and on bread (6)
- 5 Sleepy (9)
- 6 Regard as hero (7)
- 7 Gaseous state of water (5)
- 11 Motorised craft (9)
- 13 Visible (7)
- 15 Family of Edith, Osbert and Sacheverell (7)
- 16 Blood poisoning (6)
- 17 Rope fibre plant (5)
- 18 Branch of Islam (5)
- 20 Diocese (3)

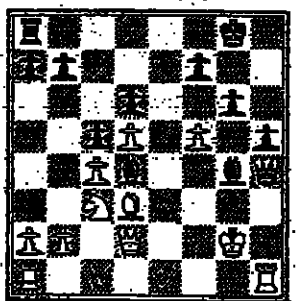
## SOLUTION TO NO 59

ACROSS: 1 Cuiraas 5 Vichy 9 Equerry 10 Low churchman 12 Engulf 14 Fiesta 17 Carpet-bagger 21 Ocarina 22 Ived 23 Avall 24 Senator  
DOWN: 1 Cavalier 2 In tow 3 Alcohol 4 Sierra 5 Vouch 6 Carcass 7 Yo-yo 11 Labrador 13 Granada 15 Italian 16 Strays 18 Phil 19 Guilt 20 Nova

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Today's problem is from the game Remlinger - Succuzzo, USA 1990. Black's bishops cut into the white position like a pair of shears. Despite his deficit of a rook, Black has a quick win. Can you see it?



Solution, page 40  
Raymond Keene, page 7

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

## DECANAL

- a. Every tenth
- b. To cease irrigation
- c. Pertaining to a dean

## VITELLINE

- a. Egg-coloured
- b. A crystalline quartz
- c. Like a calf

## WOLFIAN

- a. Lupine
- b. Philosophical
- c. Marsh verbena

Answers on page 40

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